SKELMERSDALE
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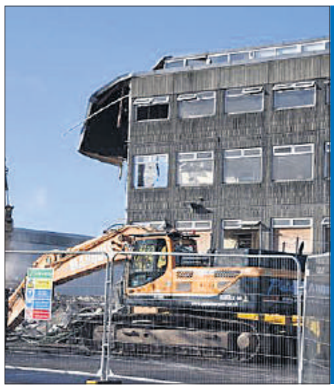
School's sporty pupils make their mark



Call for county to 'get on with' Glenburn site demolition

LOCAL HISTORIANS IN BID TO BLOCK SOLAR FARM PLAN

Report by **Henry James**

Concerns that proposed site is burial ground for 'warhorses' trained at Lathom Park

PLANS to build a solar energy farm installation on 10 acres of land at Lathom have been met by opposition from people who believe the site was used to bury horses which had been used in the First World War.

Earlier this year the Champion reported on Lightsource BP and NSG's proposals for the solar installation at Lord's Cottage, Hall Lane, which was part of Lancashire's Lathom Park estate, and a place where more than 200,000 horses were trained for service in the 1914-18 war.

Paul Kenyon, local historian and chairman of Lathom Park Trust, said: "If the horses used in the First World War are buried there, these proposals are a disgrace.

"This land has never been ploughed and has been left to pasture over the years as a mark of respect."

It is thought that several hundred horses are buried at the location.

Fellow local historian, Dorothy Hawkes, added: "I have spoken to farmers whose families have farmed in the area for two and three generations who remember being told that First World War horses were buried in this location. We plan to find as many people who have been told the same thing.

"The men who looked after those horses could have made money from the animals by sending them to the knacker's yard, but decided to bury them near where they trained.

"The land has also never been ploughed.

"We don't object to the solar panel proposals but feel that the panels could be installed on nearby NSG land and not here."

An image of how the proposed solar installation at Lathom would look

The majority of the proposed solar installation will be erected on 10 acres of land just to the south of the centre, with a smaller installation within the NSG Group's grounds.

The proposed solar installation has an output power capacity of 2.5MWp (Megawatts-Peak) - enough clean solar energy to power the equivalent of 720 homes. If approved this will provide approximately 30% of the centre's annual electricity demand.

Horses and mules were a vital part

Continued inside

MP welcomes bank's approach to softening blow of branch closure

ROSIE Cooper has met with local directors of the NatWest bank to discuss the impending closure of their Skelmersdale branch.

NatWest announced before Christmas it was to shut nearly 200 of its branches nationwide, including the Skelmersdale operation based in the Concourse shopping centre.

This prompted concerns among some customers, including pensioners and those with disabilities, about how this would affect access to their accounts.

The West Lancs MP raised these concerns with NatWest when the closure was announced and has been assured that customers are being supported through a variety of means.

NatWest also decided to increase the usual notice period from three months to six months, meaning the Skelmersdale branch won't close until May 22.

Meanwhile the branch created a new specialist task force of NatWest TechXperts dedicated to providing digital skills for those who wish to move to online banking.

And for those wishing to continue banking face-to-face, NatWest have signed a contract whereby everyday banking transactions including balance checks, cash and cheque deposits, cash withdrawals and even businesses obtaining coinage, can all be done via the local Post Office.

Rosie Cooper said: "I said previously that the closure of the NatWest branch in Skelmersdale is another blow for the town, and it is very disappointing, but I was pleased to hear from their directors of the many initiatives being undertaken to minimise its impact on customers.

"While the loss of this branch will be a big change for customers and the staff, customers could benefit from the longer opening hours provided by the Post Office, including weekends."

NatWest's Jenna Holt commented: "I would urge any customer who has concerns or needs help with their banking to get in touch with the branch."

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Volunteers invited to join Rangers and Friends in Tawd Valley Park clean-up

Weekend-long project organised in conjunction with 2018 Great British Spring Clean campaign

WEST Lancs Council's Parks and Countryside Ranger Service is organising its own event to coincide with the 2018 Great British Spring Clean campaign organised by the Keep Britain Tidy Group.

The latest project follows the success of the 'Clean for the Queen' Campaign in 2016 and the 2017 Great British Spring Clean, which saw more than 250,000 people take part in nationwide litter-picking events.

It aims to inspire hundreds of thousands of people to participate in community clean ups, many of which will take place between Friday and Sunday, March 2 and 4.

The West Lancs Rangers are holding a clean-up of Tawd Valley Park on Saturday, March 3, as well as encouraging and supporting parish councils and residents across the borough to organise their own events in their area.

The clean-up at Tawd Valley Park will be the first practical task for the Friends of Tawd Valley Park, working alongside the Rangers.

Councillor Ian Moran

Other volunteers for the Tawd Valley Park event are more than welcome to join in and should meet at the turning circle at Summer Street for a 10am start and wear suitable clothing for the weather and ground conditions.

Community groups and local residents who are organising a clean-up of their local area and require resources such as bin bags and litter-pickers can contact Michelle Williams, the council's Street Scene Operations Manager, on 01695 577177 ext. 5449 or by email at michelle.williams@westlancs.gov.uk. The council's Environmental Enforcement Officers will be out supporting community events.

Council leader, Councillor Ian Moran, said: "A key priority in the Council Plan is to be ambitious for our environment and its cleanliness. Working together can make a real contribution in tackling litter issues and improving the quality of the environment. These activities will demonstrate there are many who care passionately about this issue."

For more information about volunteering opportunities with the Ranger Service email beacon.park@westlancs.gov.uk or phone 01695 622794. The service can only accept volunteers aged 18-plus.

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Football club calls meeting for supporters

OFFICIALS of Skelmersdale United FC have called a meeting for the club's supporters to be held at the town's cricket club at Firswood Park, Blaguegate Lane on Thursday (March 1) starting at 7pm.

Paul Griffiths

The purpose of the meeting is to inform fans about the ongoing talks with West Lancashire Borough Council about the possibility of moving the club back to the town in a more "central location."

They will also outline feedback from meetings held with local businesses about coming back to Skelmersdale.

United have been ground-sharing at Prescot Cables since they were forced to leave their previous home ground last year.

Club chairman, Paul Griffiths, said: "West Lancashire Borough Council have been extremely helpful in their discussions with us, as have local businesses.

"The council has to go through due diligence and once this has happened, we will hopefully be able to make an announcement. We would like to move back to Skelmersdale in a more central location.

"The current situation has put a financial strain on the club and it is a question of surviving until the end of the season. The future looks OK, it's just the present which is the problem."

County council urged to 'get on with' job of clearing former Glenburn site

Report by **Henry James**

Demolition work being carried out at the former Glenburn Sports College site

SKELMERSDALE borough councillor Neil Furey has called on Lancashire County Council to "get on with the job" of clearing the former Glenburn Sports College site in the town.

Councillor Neil Furey, who is also the current Mayor of West Lancs, said: "'This has been a very lengthy and costly exercise by the county council, it really is about time they got on with the job of clearing the site.

"But demolishing the building isn't the end of it - the site remains a blight to the local area. I trust the county council will be investing heavily in this site for the benefit of the local community."

The demolition contract started in September 2017 and is around halfway through. It is scheduled for completion towards the end of June or early July.

Vandalism

The county council has pointed out that the land was "only transferred" to its ownership around November 2016 and say significant vandalism had already occurred prior to that date.

Leader of Lancashire County Council, Councillor Geoff Driver, said: "This site has experienced significant vandalism and anti-social behaviour since the sports college closed, including before the county council took ownership of the site towards the end of 2016.

"This resulted in additional costs to the county council. We would have preferred to spend this money on other council services, but needed to make the site safe.

"We are in the process of demolishing buildings on the site, which has been going on for some time, to deal carefully with issues such as asbestos. This takes time to do safely.

"This site has been identified as the preferred location for a new Skelmersdale railway station, which will significantly improve transport connections for local people."

Local historians lead opposition to solar farm plan

From Page 1

of the First World War effort and Lathom Park hosted and trained more than 200,000 before they carried out their service, sometimes at the war front in France.

A Lightsource BP spokesperson responded: "We appreciate the important heritage of Lathom House and the use of its grounds as a remount station during World War One. Our heritage experts have undertaken a geophysical survey, which shows remains of stables where live horses would have been kept and an exercise track, but found no evidence of horse burials within the proposed development site.

"We undertook a rigorous selection process to identify a suitable area for the solar panels, including a review of the rooftops and grounds of the Technical Centre. The roofs are not feasible for solar panels due to shading from existing plant and machinery, and because many of the roofs will need to be replaced within the lifespan of the panels.

"We have been sharing plans for the site with the local community through public events and leaflets and have been hugely encouraged by the positive response. The vast majority of the feedback has been supportive of our proposal, which would generate enough clean solar energy to meet 30% of the electricity needs of the Technical Centre, an important local employer."

Borough Council Tax to be set today

COUNCILLORS at West Lancashire Borough Council will be meeting today (Wednesday, February 28) to set their part of the overall Council Tax bill.

Lancashire County Council has agreed that their section of the bill will increase by 5.99%, while the police precept is 7.25%.

Motorway closed after reports of bridge fall incident

THE M58 motorway was closed for around four hours yesterday (Tuesday) between Junction 3 near Skelmersdale and Switch Island after reports that a man had a fallen from a bridge over the carriageway.

The incident happened at about noon and emergency services were called to the scene.

The motorway was reopened at about 4pm.

Drug-dealing brothers guilty of brutal rape

West Lancs siblings were gang boss's 'lieutenants' in Blackpool heroin and cocaine smuggling operation

Report by **Henry James**

TWO brothers from West Lancashire who were members of a gang which flooded the streets of Blackpool with Class A drugs, have also been found guilty of the brutal rape of a vulnerable woman.

The 'Carlos' gang, was headed by Christopher Nimbley, 37, of Wordsworth Street, Liverpool who, it can now be revealed has also been convicted, along with brothers Jeffrey Dillon, 34, of Inglewhite, Skelmersdale and Bradley Dillon, 19, of Lea Crescent, Ormskirk, of the rape.

The gang smuggled heroin and crack cocaine into the resort from the Merseyside area.

Operation Lawson, the police investigation which cracked the gang, started in November 2016 and quickly established that Nimbley, who pleaded guilty at an earlier hearing to conspiracy to supply Class A drugs, was running a mobile phone which drug users would call to then be directed to another number for a street dealer.

The Dillon brothers were Nimbley's 'lieutenants' in Blackpool and undercover surveillance showed that they were both using the dealer number before any hand-to-hand drug exchanges took place.

The gang mainly carried out drug deals on the street but also used flats in the Claremont area of the resort. Surveillance revealed that when members of the gang went to these flats, there would soon follow a flurry of drug users to the address.

The arrest of a local drug user in January 2017 seemed to force Nimbley to move back to Liverpool leaving the West Lancs pair in charge of the Blackpool operation.

The gang then started to use vulnerable people to work as runners, delivering drugs and money, co-ordinated through a phone relay system.

On Friday, February 3 2017 drugs warrants were executed at a flat on Clevedon Road, Blackpool where the Dillons, and 28-year-old James Rothwell of Hallcroft, Skelmersdale, were arrested for conspiracy to supply Class A drugs.

Exploiting

Numerous phones were seized as well as digital scales and a small amount of cannabis and spice. The scales were later found to contain traces of cocaine, heroin and cannabis.

A further drugs warrant was then conducted at a flat in Derby Road, Blackpool where mobile phones were seized along with plastic bags consistent with the supply of class A drugs. The packaging was later found to contain traces of cocaine.

Items seized from Nimbley's premises in Toxteth included two large white crack cocaine rocks valued at around £10,000.

Following a media appeal on September 5 last year Nimbley was arrested at an address in Liverpool. Also found at the premises was a suitcase containing more than £2,000 and digital scales.

As a result of evidence seized during this investigation, officers discovered that the principal members of the crime gang, as well as being involved in the supply of heroin and cocaine, were also sexually exploiting vulnerable individuals.

A number of mobile telephones were seized and submitted for forensic examination. Images held on these phones showed the three principal members of the gang - Nimbley and the Dillon brothers - raping a woman who appeared to be unresponsive throughout and was clearly intoxicated.

She was later identified and confirmed that she had never given her permission or consent for any sexual activity to take place and couldn't recall the incident.

All three were arrested on suspicion of rape and were found guilty following a three-week trial at Preston Crown Court.

Detective Chief Inspector Rebecca Smith, of Blackpool Police, said: "The supply of class A drugs from urban hubs to county towns continues to be a widespread issue in Lancashire. 'County lines' gangs pose a significant threat to vulnerable adults and children upon whom they rely to facilitate and conduct their illegal activities. Exposure to this level of gang exploitation has the potential to create both emotional and physical harm and, as in this case, extreme sexual violence to a vulnerable woman."

The group will be sentenced at a later date.

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Skem man charged after £14m drugs raid

A 55-YEAR-OLD man from Skelmersdale is one of three charged with conspiracy to import drugs after substances worth an estimated £14m were seized in raids.

Officers from the North West regional organised Crime Unit, TITAN, executed a warrant at industrial premises on Spindus Road, Speke at 6.15am on Friday (February 23) as part of a joint investigation with Lancashire Police.

Three men were arrested and a large quantity of cocaine with an estimated street value of £13.9 million was recovered from the scene.

Further searches in Skelmersdale resulted in the seizure of heroin valued at £100,000 and around £60,000 in cash.

Stephen Andrew Kelly, of Charnock, Skelmersdale has been charged with conspiracy to import cocaine and possession with intent to supply heroin.

Bradley Stephen Kelly, 35 of Vernon Way, Bloxwich, Walsall has been charged with conspiracy to import cocaine. And 37-year-old Polish national, Grezegorz Krzyk, has been charged with conspiracy to import cocaine.

The trio were remanded in custody to appear at Liverpool Magistrates Court on Monday (February 26.)

Ambulance service launches new Instagram account

THE North West Ambulance Service (NWAS) NHS Trust is giving social media users the chance to 'see behind the scenes' of its work with the launch of a new Instagram account.

The account, @TeamNWAS, went live on Monday (February 19), and will feature the different faces of the organisation.

Each week a different member of the team will take control of the account, giving followers an insight into what life as an ambulance service worker is all about.

And while most services have their own Instagram accounts, this is believed to be the first in the country to give control of a dedicated account to its frontline teams.

NWAS employs almost 6,000 staff across the region, including paramedics, dispatchers, ambulance care assistants, 111 health advisors and urgent care practitioners.

Council's warning to dog owners who flout laws on ID discs and microchipping

DOG owners are being warned to comply with the laws on identity discs and microchipping for their pets or face the consequences.

The warning comes after West Lancashire Borough Council prosecuted two owners in separate cases at Wigan Magistrates Court.

Martin McMullen was fined £500 as his dog didn't have an identity disc while out in public; and a further £200 because although the dog was microchipped there were no contact details on the national database system.

He was also ordered to pay £397.18 costs and an £80 victim surcharge, making a total of £1,177.18.

The court heard that Mr McMullen's French Bulldog was found straying near the Hare and Hounds pub in Skelmersdale and handed over to council staff.

The necessary advice relating to microchipping and identity laws was given at the time the dog was collected following which Mr McMullen, of Colinton, Skelmersdale, was served a legal notice giving him 21 days to update these details and provide proof it had been done.

When the notice was not complied with, the council started legal proceedings.

Councillor Kevin Wright

Dog owners can face an unlimited fine if their dog is not wearing an identity disc in public. If they have more than one dog in public without identity discs they can face separate fines for each dog.

It is also a legal requirement for dogs to be microchipped and the owner's contact details kept up to date. Anyone failing to meet these requirements can be served with a 21-day legal notice ordering them to get their dog chipped. Failure to comply can result in prosecution and a fine of up to £500 per dog. Dogs with microchips where the owner has failed to keep their contact details up to date will be deemed not to be microchipped.

In another case Graham Jones, of Sefton Village, Merseyside, was fined £145, ordered to pay £200 costs and a £30 victim surcharge because his dog was not microchipped.

The court heard that Mr Jones' Patterdale terrier-type dog was handed into a vets in Aughton as a stray and referred to the council.

When Mr Jones collected the dog he declined to have his dog microchipped, and subsequently failed to comply with the legal notice.

Mr Jones attended court and pleaded guilty to failing to comply with the legal notice.

Councillor Kevin Wright, West Lancs Council's portfolio holder for community safety, said: "The council aims to take firm action against all those who fail to comply with dog-related laws. These cases prove dog owners must act responsibly and comply with legislation regarding their pets or they could be prosecuted and face a fine."

Deputy leader of West Lancs Council and Ashurst ward representative, Councillor Yvonne Gagen, presents their Bronze School Games Mark Award to pupils from St James' Catholic Primary School

School's commitment to sport recognised

SPORTY pupils at St James' Catholic Primary School, Skelmersdale have achieved the Bronze School Games Mark Award.

The School Games Mark is a Government-led award scheme launched in 2012 and facilitated by the Youth Sport Trust to reward schools for their commitment to the development of competition across their school and into the community.

Headteacher of the school in Ashurst Road, Dave Iliff, said: "We are extremely proud of our pupils for their dedication to all aspects of school sport. We are pleased that the hard work by everyone in school has been rewarded and that we have been recognised for our success."

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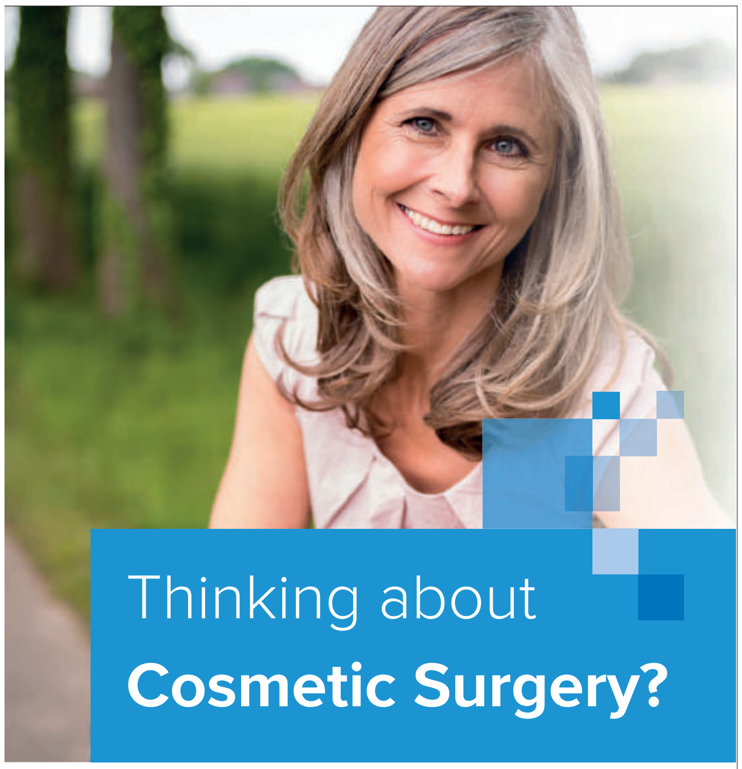

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Veterans group in call for residents to get involved in Silent Soldier campaign

Report by **Henry James**

THE Skelmersdale Veterans, Association is inviting townsfolk to get involved in the Silent Soldier campaign which will be running across the country to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the first World War.

As part of the campaign a silhouette of a First World War British 'Tommy' will be placed on buildings, in gardens and fields and on roundabouts as a mark of respect to the soldiers who came home 'silently' from the so-called Great War.

Companies, community groups and individuals can donate to receive a silent soldier to display. They can also choose to display their company name on the base of the silhouette and join the nation to remember our fallen heroes during 2018.

Alan Lewis from the Veterans Association commented: "More than 1.1 million British and Empire servicemen and women gave their lives during the First World War, so that future generations could live theirs. The Royal British Legion aims to ensure that we pay our respects to those who gave so much.

"The First World War changed communities across Britain and the allied countries forever. The Silent Soldiers stand as a tribute to those who didn't return home and to those whose lives would never be the same again."

Alan Lewis and Alison Mowlem from The Royal British Legion

Following the end of the war in November 1918 the process of demobilisation and discharge was still a long process as the British Army had commitments to fulfil in Germany, North Russia and in the garrison of Empire.

On arrival back in England the men would move to a dispersal centre - usually a camp made up of huts or tents, or a barracks - where they received a railway warrant or ticket to their home station.

They were then 'on their own' and would be seen across the country, walking back home down the roads and across the fields returning to their families.

Alan Lewis added: "The Royal British Legion is inviting organisations, community groups and individuals to support the Silent Soldier campaign by donating and displaying a Silent Soldier to mark the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War from now until the end of the year."

The association will display Silent Soldiers at their Armed Forces Fun Day on July 14 and 15.

Meanwhile they have been asked by the Royal British Legion to run the Poppy Appeal for Skelmersdale and West Lancashire following the retirement of long-serving organiser for the area, Harry Keeling.

Alan Lewis said: "I would like to thank Harry for all his years of hard work in the Skelmersdale and West Lancashire area. He has given good service to the Poppy Appeal and the Royal British Legion."

The veterans are also looking to visit primary schools across Skelmersdale.

Anyone requiring further information about the Silent Soldier camapign can contact Alison Mowlem on 07799 312 316, or contact Alan Lewis by email at svachair@outlook.com.

Got a story? Ring the Champ News Desk on 01704 392400 or email us at editorial@champnews.com

Borough councillors organise event to celebrate International Women's Day

BOROUGH councillors Claire Cooper and Yvonne Gagen are organising an event to mark International Women's Day on Thursday, March 8.

The evening event, from 7.30 to 9.30pm at Tanhouse Community Centre, Ennerdale, will be a celebration of influential women, particularly those with links to West Lancashire.

Dot Broady-Hawkes will talk about local suffragettes, while Paula Gamester, managing director of the Sewing Rooms, will speak about setting up a business.

Meanwhile, Gail Newsham will relate the story of the famous Dick Kerr Ladies Football Team who were the pioneers of women's football in the UK, playing to thousands of people and raising funds for families left destitute as a result of the First World War.

Phenomenal

Councillors Cooper and Gagen said: "We are organising the event as it is 100 years since women were able to vote and 200 years since the publication of Persuasion, Northanger Abbey and Frankenstein, breaking the ground for women authors.

"It is also 50 years since the Dagenham Girls strike at the Ford plant in Dagenham and 100 years since the Women's Royal Air Force was founded."

Borough Councillors Claire Cooper and Yvonne Gagen

There will also be an International Women's Day event at the Ecumenical Centre in Northway on the afternoon of March 8. This is conjunction with the Junk Food Cafe and runs from noon until 2pm.

Cllrs. Cooper and Gagen added: "It would be great if residents could support both, as the Junk Food Cafe in Skelmersdale was established by a phenomenal lady and it is a pay-as-you-feel cafe serving delicious three-course meals from food that would otherwise have just been junked in landfill."

Tickets for the evening event, priced £5, are limited. To order contact Cllr. Cooper on 07742 927 689.

All money raised will help to fund Healthy Breakfast Clubs across West Lancashire during school holidays.

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£14.00 per person
(Minimum of 2 persons or more)
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Served with Prawn Crackers
Crispy Spring Rolls • Capital Spare Ribs • Crispy Wanton
MAIN COURSE
Beef with Mushrooms • Roast Pork Char Sui Curry
Soft Fried Noodle, Mild or Hot • Egg Fried Rice

Banquet 'B'
£15.00 per person
(Minimum of 2 persons or more)
Chicken & Sweetcorn Soup or Hot & Sour Soup
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Council pledge to keep taking tough action on illegal rubbish dumpers

WEST Lancs has pledged to continue its crackdown on offenders who dump rubbish in the borough by taking legal action.

In a recent case brought by the authority Wigan Magistrates Court heard that the drivers of two vehicles were caught on CCTV throwing items of litter out of their windows on Tollgate Crescent, Burscough.

Both vehicles were traced back to men called Lee Seddon, registered at two different addresses - Warpers Moss Lane, Burscough and Larchtree Mews, Liverpool.

The council initially served fixed penalty notices of £75 on both men. These were not paid which resulted in the matters going to the court where each man was fined £330.

Rubbish dumped at Nipe Lane in Skelmersdale

They were also both ordered to pay costs of £366 and victim surcharges of £33, making a total of £729 in each case.

In a separate case at Wigan Magistrates Court, Luke Little was prosecuted for failure to provide information in relation to a fly-tipping offence and fined £250 after boxes tipped in undergrowth on Nipe Lane, Skelmersdale, were traced back to him. He was also ordered to pay £200 costs and a £30 victim surcharge, making a total of £480.

The court heard Mr Little, of Darmonds Green, Liverpool, was asked to attend a formal interview about the matter after he failed to pay a £200 penalty notice. When he failed to attend the interview the authority began legal proceedings.

Councillor Kevin Wright, the council's portfolio holder for community safety, said: "The council continues to work hard to tackle fly-tipping and litter problems and protect the local environment.

"Fly-tipping is a serious criminal offence with unlimited fines for individuals and businesses found guilty of offences."

If people think waste has been disposed of illegally they can report this to the council on the website www.westlancs.gov.uk/flytipping.

People can also report problems with litter or fly-tipping by calling 01695 577177 between 8.30am and 5.30pm, Monday to Friday.

The council is reminding all householders that they need to make sure any waste that they have removed is disposed of legally.

Anyone removing waste as part of a business must have a waste carriers' licence and give waste transfer notes to whomever they collect waste from.

Householders can check if anyone who removes waste from them has a waste carriers' licence by contacting the Environment Agency on 03708 506506 or visiting their website www.gov.uk/government/organisations/environment-agency.

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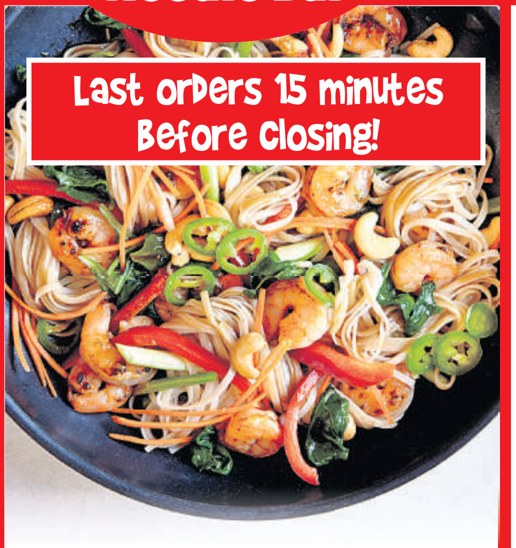

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- Rice Stick 8mm Noodles
- Egg Fried Rice
- Soba Noodles
- Vermicelli Noodles

All served with wok tossed Asian vegetables (carrots, beansprouts, spring onion, onion and egg)

2. FILL IT UP

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- Squid £1.90
- Pork £1.90
- Chicken £1.90
- Beef £1.90
- Pineapple 80p
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- Mixed Peppers 80p
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- Tofu £1.70
- Tomato 80p

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- Pad Thai
- Oyster
- Thai Green Curry 🔥🔥🔥
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- Sweet Chilli 🔥
- Sweet'n'Sour
- Black Bean
- Chow Mein

Spice level 🔥 Contains nuts 🥜

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Classic Menu

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- Soba Noodle
- Rice Stick 5mm Noodle
- Fried Rice
- Udon Noodle
- Vermicelli Noodle

All served with wok tossed Asian vegetables (carrots, beansprouts, spring onion, onion and egg)

Classic Boxes

Small £5.50
Regular £6.50 • Large £7.50

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Tofu, mushroom, pineapple, tomato, broccoli and Asian vegetables all simmered in a sauce of your choice (soy, sweet chilli, hot chilli).

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Chicken, broccoli, market fresh Asian vegetables and egg all wok tossed in an original pad thai sauce (crushed peanuts are optional)

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SPRING ROLLS Chicken, mushroom, noodle, onion, cabbage, spring onion, carrot and bean sprout.	£3.70
VEGGIE SPRING ROLLS Mushroom, noodle, onion, cabbage, spring onion, carrot and bean sprout.	£3.50
PRAWN CRACKERS	£1.70
FRIED RICE	£3.50
EXTRA SAUCE	75p

SPECIALS

CHIPS, CURRY, FRIED RICE	Small £2.20 Large £2.90
FRIED RICE, SALT & PEPPER CHIPS	£2.70
SAUSAGE BALM	£1.50
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Pie Dinner	£3.50
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Chips & Gravy	*Sml* £1.70 *Lrg* £2.20
Chips, Curry and Rice	*Sml* £1.70 *Lrg* £2.20
Chips, Curry & Fried Rice	*Sml* £1.70 *Lrg* £2.20
Savoury Cake	£1.20
Chop Suey Roll	£1.50
Fish Cake	£1.00
Sausage	*Sml* 70p *Lrg* £1.10
Gravy	80p
Curry	80p
Peas	80p
Steak & Kidney Pudding	£1.40
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Chicken & Mushroom Pie	£1.40
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A packed Preston Guild Hall for last year's initial Apprenticeship Expo

Apprenticeship Expo back for second year

FOLLOWING the success of last year's first Lancashire Apprenticeship Expo, the recruitment event is coming back for a second year, bringing together more than 50 of the region's top employers looking to recruit budding apprentices.

The Expo will take place at Preston Guild Hall on Tuesday, March 13 between noon and 7pm and will provide attendees with the opportunity to speak face-to-face with employers about apprenticeships, training and job opportunities.

Employers already signed up for the event include Leyland Trucks, BAE Systems, United Utilities and Vincent's Solicitors.

The Expo is aimed at school leavers, current college learners, adults and those currently in employment wishing to learn more about potential apprenticeship opportunities with local organisations. it will also provide information, advice and guidance for adults looking to upskill, change career or return to work or seeking general course information

Following apprenticeship reforms in April 2017, more organisations are now committing to apprenticeship training, benefiting from the fund created by the apprenticeship levy, as well as additional incentives for smaller organisations, including grants of up to £1,000 for those employing 16 to 18-year-olds.

Andrew Richardson, lead organiser for the Lancashire Apprenticeship Expo, said: "Last year's event saw more than 2,000 people given the opportunity to speak with some of the county's top employers and this year will be no different.

"The Expo is the best place to see more than 50 companies all in one place and for businesses to meet potential candidates, enabling them to showcase what they offer and ultimately recruit direct."

To register for the Expo, visit www.appexpo.co.uk, where you will also be able to see the full list of employers confirmed for the event.

For information on showcasing your business at the event, contact Shout Network on 01772 642830 or email info@shoutnetwork.co.uk.

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Visitors with flu or cold symptoms asked to steer clear of hospitals

Report by **Kenny Parker**

HEALTH chiefs at Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust are asking visitors with cold and flu symptoms to stay away from hospitals to prevent the bug's spread.

Andrew Chalmers, the trust's Deputy Director of Infection Prevention and Control, said: "If you have a cough, cold or flu-like symptoms, please stay home and get well before you visit hospital.

"If your visit is absolutely essential, please call the ward in advance so our nursing staff can safely accommodate your visit.

"We have recently had a patient who was with us for some days before starting with symptoms of flu. The likelihood is this was passed on from a poorly visitor who came into close proximity with him. This could also pose a risk to other patients.

"Our main priority is to contain the flu virus and to protect all our patients and ensure they fully recover as soon as possible so they can return home to their family and friends.

Andrew Chalmers, Deputy Director of Infection Prevention and Control at Southport and Ormskirk hospitals.

"People can prevent the spread of flu by thoroughly washing their hands with soap and water and hygiene hand gels are also effective at keeping the flu virus at bay."

Three different strains of flu are circulating in the community which are spiking in severity at different times.

Latest figures from Public Health England show flu rates recorded by GP surgeries were 26.1 per 100,000 population nationally and 34.5 per 100,000 in the North West.

Message

Andrew Chalmers advised people with a suspected flu virus, or family members suffering from one, to visit the NHS Choices website for information.

People are also being reminded of the simple message to protect themselves and others from cold and flu this winter - Catch it. Bin it. Kill it.

- **Catch it:** Always carry tissues and use them to cover your nose and mouth when you cough or sneeze.
- **Bin it:** Dispose of used tissues as soon as possible.
- **Kill it:** Clean your hands with soap and water or hand sanitiser following coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose.

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Priest charged with possessing indecent images of children

A SENIOR Roman Catholic priest has appeared in court for charges related to possession of indecent images of children.

Father Thomas Wood, 55, is Judicial Vicar for Liverpool Archdiocese, which covers the southern area of Lancashire, as well as being priest in charge of Our Lady's and St Gregory the Great RC Churches in Lydiate, a role he has performed since January 2015. Prior to that he served as priest of Our Lady Star of the Sea RC Church in Seaforth for 19 years.

He gave no indication to plea when he appeared at Sefton Magistrates Court on Wednesday, February 21.

The first charge states that between November 11 and November 14 of 2015 while at Southport Road, in Lydiate, he had in his possession indecent photographs of children. The second charge states that between the same dates as the first charge, he made indecent pseudo photographs of a child.

According to Government guidance a pseudo-photograph is an image made by computer-graphics or otherwise which appears to be a photograph. This can include photos, videos, tracings and derivatives of a photograph, and data that can be converted into a photograph.

Making of an indecent image can refer to opening, accessing, downloading and storing online content.

Father Thomas Wood.

The Judicial Vicar of Liverpool handles all legal duties for the RC church, ranging from marriage to the possible creation of new saints. The Archdiocese of Liverpool says that Father Wood has been suspended from both of his roles within the church pending the outcome of the criminal proceedings.

Chairman of the magistrates' bench, Bruce McGrath, sent the matters to Liverpool Crown Court where Wood will appear for a plea, trial and preparation hearing on Wednesday, March 21.

He was granted bail on condition that he has no unsupervised access to any child under the age of 18 years and lives and sleeps at the Southport area address he gave to the court.

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County police chiefs team up with charity to tackle modern slavery

LANCASHIRE'S Police and Crime Commissioner, Clive Grunshaw has spoken of the importance of tackling modern slavery at the first of several training sessions in the county aimed at helping front-line staff to identify victims and how best they can help.

The training, which aims to ensure the best possible support from staff and organisations who may come into contact with victims of human trafficking and modern slavery, is delivered by Hope for Justice, an international charity seeking to end modern day slavery.

That initial event at Preston Town Hall is being followed by similar sessions over the next two months in Blackpool, Skelmersdale, Blackburn, Lancaster and Burnley. The training also includes a local case study delivered by an officer from Lancashire Constabulary.

The sessions are already fully booked, with around 50 delegates from across the public sector and non-governmental organisations attending each.

Clive Grunshaw said: "Tackling modern slavery and human trafficking is a key priority for us in Lancashire, with training like this a really important part of the work to help those being exploited and bring offenders to justice."

Valuable

The first training session also saw the launch of a new pocket guide to help front-line professionals spot the signs and know what action to take.

Detective Inspector Jane Newton from Lancashire Constabulary commented: "These training sessions are a valuable step to train professionals from a variety of organisations, to identifying the signs and symptoms of modern day slavery.

"Only by acknowledging that this form of criminality is taking place within our communities and appreciating that everyone has a role to play can we make real progress and proactively support the most vulnerable in our society."

And Sara Squires, UK training manager at Hope for Justice, said: "Better understanding among police forces of the indicators of modern slavery and the best ways to respond to victims will change the landscape of anti-slavery efforts in the UK, by increasing prosecutions, deterring traffickers and supporting survivors.

"It is fantastic to see such strong backing for these efforts from the police and crime commissioner for Lancashire and from Lancashire Constabulary, with whom we work regularly."

HOPE JUSTICE

Lancashire's Police and Crime Commissioner, Clive Grunshaw and Sara Squires, UK training manager for Hope for Justice

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Transport is focus of history group's March programme

TRANSPORT will be the theme of the Ormskirk Historical Society's programme for March.

On Monday, March 5, Michael Murphy will be giving a talk on the Liverpool Overhead Railway.

It is expected that many members will have memories to share of the electric railway - known locally as 'The Dockers' Umbrella' - which operated from 1893 up until 1956.

Meanwhile, on Monday, March 19, Derek Arnold of the Wirral History & Heritage Association, will give a presentation about how the Mersey ferry boats Royal Iris and Daffodil got their names. This may lead to a society outing in the near future.

Prior to Derek's talk the society will hold its annual general meeting which is only expected to last about 10 minutes.

Society meetings are held at the Four Lane Ends Mission, Skelmersdale Road, Bickerstaffe starting at 7.30pm.

Membership fee is £16 per annum, the charge to visitors is £3 per session but students can attend for free.

For more information go to the wesbite at www.ormskirkhistoricalsociety.co.uk.

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Infection prevention nurse Jane Mastin, who developed the septis strategy and training sessions, pictured with the award

Strategy to tackle sepsis in care homes wins national recognition

A LANCASHIRE County Council strategy to tackle a life-threatening condition in care homes has won national recognition.

The authority's Sepsis Strategy for Lancashire Care Homes 2017-2020 was handed the runners-up award following a presentation at the UK Sepsis Trust's *Sepsis Unplugged Conference* in Birmingham this month.

Sepsis claims more lives than breast, bowel and lung cancer combined and the number of cases is increasing year-on-year. However, early detection and management of the condition can help save unnecessary suffering and lives.

Older people are at greater risk of sepsis and the county council has been offering free training sessions for staff in Lancashire's residential and nursing care homes since last September.

Reducing the risk of infections, identifying the signs of sepsis early and referring residents for time-critical care using standardised reporting are some of the topics covered in the training.

Dr Sakthi Karunanithi, director of public health for Lancashire County Council, said: "Congratulations to Jane Mastin, our infection prevention nurse, who developed the strategy and the training sessions and who was presented with the award

"Sepsis can be fatal and early treatment is crucial. It is triggered by other illnesses, such as lung and urinary tract infections and flu, and spreads through the blood. If not treated quickly it leads to a dramatic fall in blood pressure, organ failure and can be fatal.

"Sepsis is difficult to detect as many of the symptoms are similar to other illnesses. Local research showed that care home staff didn't always know how to recognise the symptoms and were not using consistent language when contacting health services. A key part of the strategy is to ensure care home staff use a standardised way of reporting sepsis which is recognised by Public Health England as the best way of detecting deteriorating conditions and giving health services the information that allows them to treat cases urgently.

"The free training sessions are run by our infection control experts. Staff who have already taken part have found them very useful."

County Councillor Shaun Turner, Lancashire's cabinet member for health and wellbeing, added: "Our Infection Prevention and Control Team has come up with a new and innovative way of tackling sepsis in Lancashire's care homes and it is great that this has received national recognition with the Sepsis Unplugged runners-up award."

People can remember the symptoms by using the acronym SEPSIS. S -slurred speech; E -extreme shivering or muscle pain; P - passing no urine (in a day); S - severe breathlessness; I - 'I feel like I may die; and S - skin mottled or discoloured.

Staff from care homes who want to book a place on the sepsis training and development courses can email infectionprevention@lancashire.gov.uk for more details.

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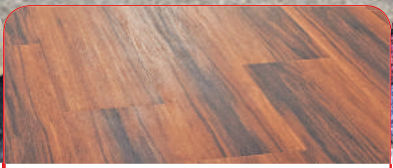

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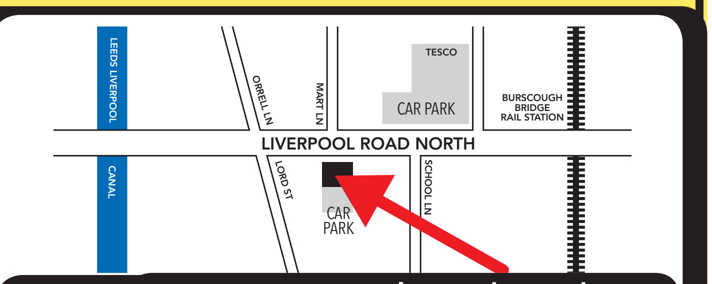

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

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Councillors' expenses and police funding - an offer of clarification

IN response to recent letters about councillors' expenses and police funding, I would offer the following clarification,

The Police and Crime Commission Panel is made up of democratically-elected councillors representing every borough in the county, as well as a representative of Lancashire County Council and independent members.

We receive no payment for sitting on the panel nor expenses from the commissioner. In seven years as a councillor I haven't claimed a penny in expenses accepting that the taxable allowance I receive is sufficient for me to carry out my duties.

The policing precept is recommended by the commissioner and voted on by the panel. I voted in favour because there is simply no other option other than cuts to front-line services.

Since taking control of the borough we have safeguarded both the provision of CCTV and funding for PCSO deployment, the only borough in the county to do so.

It is easy to insist a cut in councillors' allowances will resolve the financial issues we face in local government, but many councillors, such as myself, are obliged to take unpaid leave in order to carry out our duties. With the corresponding financial loss, many worthwhile individuals would simply be prevented from standing if they did not receive financial support to do so.

And, of course, this argument fails to consider that the current Government has cut funding to Lancashire Constabulary by over £70 million since 2010, have not contributed a penny to the now £5 million cost of policing fracking, or towards the 2% pay rise awarded to police officers.

However easy it is to attack those who are fortunate to be elected to office, the real issue here is a deliberate under-funding of public services by the current Conservative Government which means we all have to pay more to get less!

Councillor Kevin Wright, WLBC cabinet member for health & community safety, and member of Lancashire Police & Crime Commissioner Panel

Badly-planned roadworks have caused misery and virtual gridlock

WITH regard to the ongoing roadworks at Southport Road/County Road, Ormskirk, like numerous other local residents I am staggered as to how they were allowed to be set up the way they have been.

I have two general observations.

1. I feel allowing the roadworks to take place during a school holiday period was short-sighted. It may have helped locally for a short period in the morning/afternoon but surely the planner would have known that school holidays create a more consistent burden with extra traffic throughout the day for visitors to Southport and Ormskirk and general useage.

The person(s) who designed these roadworks should know they have caused absolute misery in virtually gridlocking Ormskirk, and not just near to Southport Road/County Road. Traffic has been tailed back on all approach roads and those visiting Ormskirk struggle to leave.

For example, exiting Morrisons car park early afternoon has meant vehicles on occasions waiting about 20 minutes just to exit. Emergency vehicles have struggled to get through and residents have been stuck in traffic jams for considerable periods. Local people have been able to use side roads to avoid some of the congestion but the majority are not so lucky. What a great impression of our town.

2. It is not rocket science to realise that having single lane traffic with temporary traffic lights that are slow, confusing and woefully inadequate at this junction, would cause chaos, coupled with limited notification to residents.

There is a lot more creative solutions to manage the traffic flow in terms of sheer scope of work, managing approach roads etc., to minimise disruption.

Try being a pedestrian at these roadworks or spending time with the displaced traffic trying to force their way around static vehicles at the fire station roundabout.

Those responsible for designing and implementing these roadworks need to look at themselves as to their own competence. It has been an absolute disgrace.

A fed-up Ormskirk resident

PICTURE of the week

Clothes show: Beavers from the 45th Ormskirk (Burscough Methodist) group find a unique way of sorting clothes they have collected before they fashion them into an art work for their team-work challenge. Once judged and a winner chosen, the items will be sent for recycling. Picture by Martyn Snape.

Spend that council tax increase on some *proper* resurfacing!

WEST Lancashire has some of the worst maintained roads I have seen - anywhere! In places the road surfaces are disintegrating rapidly and are dangerous.

Take Spa Lane in Lathom as an example. The road surface here is in a terrible state, a complete patchwork of potholes and badly-bodged repairs.

Another massive problem is the current trend of throwing loose gravel over the roads as a form of cheap surface repair. The trouble is, that contractors can't be bothered to come back and clear the loose gravel once the work is complete. This then remains on the road surface until it gets flicked up by tyres causing damage to paintwork and with the potential to injure pedestrians and cyclists.

Reducing the speed limit to 20 is NOT the answer! Here's a novel suggestion, why not spend some of the 6% increase in Council Tax actually resurfacing the roads - properly!

A. Davies, by email

Delayed appointments are not good enough

I HAVE been going to the podiatrist at Sandy Lane centre, Skelmersdale for a number of years and always had to phone for an appointment four weeks before.

As my last appointment was in November, I phoned at the beginning of January to be told to phone back the following week as they didn't have February's list. This has made my appointment 14 weeks after my last, it should be 10.

Is that what we have to look forward to with Virgin Care, which has taken over the running? It is not good enough.

Mrs P. De-Geir, Parbold

Not another test! No wonder many teachers are leaving the profession

DURING the TV programme 'Question Time' (February 15) a member of the audience was concerned that yet another test has been set for our eight to nine-year-olds to check they know all their tables. Of course, it's desirable that they know them, but do they really need a formal test to prove it?

Every test requires yet more expenditure on testing material and yet more paper work from teachers. So I was pleased that many teachers present made similar points, emphasising that tables can easily be tested regularly and informally by them.

It was clear that there was a strong feeling of resentment among the teachers regarding all current testing and its resultant bureaucracy. Also, as they try to meet governmental directives, they find little time left to use their expertise. No wonder, as one teacher stated, many of our best teachers are leaving the profession through stress and frustration.

Even more crucially, I consider that teachers should also be actively opposing the meaningless phonic test.

Firstly, it is time-consuming since teachers try to ensure that by six or seven years, children have learned a plethora of sounds such as oo, ea, ou, ure and many more.

Secondly, our language is irregular regarding matching sound to print. Consider, for example, the variations of the sound of ou in the words out, you, though, thought.

Thirdly, these 'bits' of words do not improve reading for meaning, surely the most important literacy skill.

The way to improve reading is by attempting it and listening to regular readings of stories, poems etc. After all, we wouldn't try to teach someone to swim by repeatedly spending time on land drill. Yet, according to directives, our children - and especially those finding reading difficult - have to concentrate on 'bits' of words to improve their reading.

No wonder that by the age of 11 or 12 years some children are 'turned off' literacy!

Dr Norma Mudd, retired teacher and North West representative of UK Literary Association, Burscough

Time for borough to try new approach

ANOTHER week, another alarming story in relation to the sheer incompetence of Lancashire County Council, this time increasing our council tax by 6%, double the rate of inflation.

I would begrudgingly accept this if we saw some benefits, but to my mind West Lancashire is the forgotten area within LCC.

I think LCC is too large and something needs to be done, perhaps splitting the council in half, as Cheshire County Council did a few years ago.

Or something much more radical such as some borough councils becoming unitary councils. This is something that I have been advocating for a while that West Lancs Council should be actively exploring. Surely we would achieve better value for money in providing services to the general public by working in partnership with a more effective and efficient local authority, such as Wigan or St Helens.

Either proposal would also have an additional benefit of reducing the number of councillors and thereby saving monies.

John Gallagher, Up Holland

We need an adult A&E in West Lancs

TONY Blair didn't do anything about the closure of the A&E department at Ormskirk and now I have to drive past Ormskirk Hospital to go to Southport for emergency treatment.

Here's an idea for the new £1.25m module extension at Southport's A&E dept - change Ormskirk's A&E into an adult one and put the children's unit in the extended Southport one!

The A&E facility is very much needed in West Lancs. Our MP Rosie Cooper needs to speak to the Government about this, it is deeply unfair.

Disappointed, Skelmersdale

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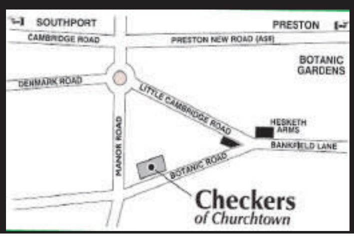
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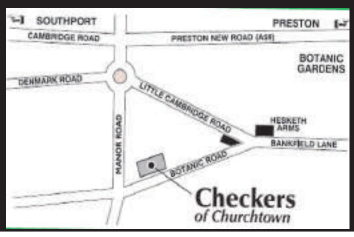
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Five more suspects could be set to face charges over Hillsborough

Report by **Tom Martin**

A NUMBER of former police officers could yet be charged with criminal offences relating to the Hillsborough football tragedy, it has emerged.

It is believed up to five ex-officers are under investigation - two West Midlands Police officers and three South Yorkshire Police officers.

The families of the Hillsborough victims have received letters from the Crown Prosecution Service and the Independent Office for Police Conduct *(formerly known as the Independent Police Complaints Committee)* about the latest developments surrounding the ill-fated 1989 FA Cup semi-final when 96 Liverpool supporters lost their lives.

The Crown Prosecution Service's review of a West Midlands Police evidence file relating to two suspects is almost complete.

The force investigated the aftermath of the 1989 disaster.

The CPS expects to announce charging decisions relating to these individuals within the next three weeks.

Former Ch Supt David Duckenfield

A statement from the Independent Office for Police Conduct said: "We referred around 61,000 pages of evidence to the CPS in January 2017. Further investigative work was required on the file, resulting in an additional 12,000 pages of evidence being submitted at the end of May 2017.

Decisions

"As a result, it was not possible for the CPS to make charging decisions on the WMP matters at the same time as those announced in June last year. Since then extensive work has been ongoing to review this evidence.

"We will also provide the outcome of its evidence review relating to three former South Yorkshire Police officers who are suspects but have not been previously referred to the CPS. This review will include whether or not a CPS referral will now be made so that criminal charges can be formally considered.

"At this stage, it is expected that both WMP charging decisions and the evidence review in relation to the SYP officers will be communicated together."

Six people, including former chief constable of both Merseyside and West Yorkshire Police, Sir Norman Bettison, and match commander and former Chief Supt David Duckenfield, are already facing charges related to the disaster.

Former chief superintendent Donald Denton; former detective chief inspector Alan Foster; South Yorkshire Police's solicitor, Peter Metcalf, and Sheffield Wednesday's company secretary Graham Mackrell are also being prosecuted.

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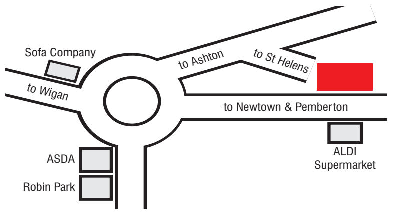

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Helping hand for OCD sufferers

PEOPLE suffering with Obsesive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) are being urged to contact Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust's Mindsmatter service for help and support.

OCD can be a debilitating and paralysing experience with sufferers often having negative and repetitive thoughts that force them to repeat actions but the Mindsmatter service may be able to help.

Kieran Fleck, Mindsmatter psychological wellbeing practitioner lead at the trust, says: "We often hear the term 'a bit OCD-ish' and many of us may have behaviours or thoughts that we recognise as falling into this category. For most of us, and for most of the time, these are not too much of a burden. However, for some (perhaps as many as two per cent) OCD is a significant clinical problem that can seriously impair our quality of life."

For people who are suffering from more intense or severe OCD symptoms the Mindsmatter service is happy to talk about other treatment options that could make a real difference such as high intensity cognitive behavioral therapy.

'Overcoming Your Fears' age-group sessions are run over eight weeks by the Mindsmatter service. People can access the service via an online referral form, post, telephone or by visiting their GP.

For more information and to access their online self-referral form visit www.lancashirecare.nhs.uk/Mindsmatter.

MP backs campaign to tackle fuel poverty

WEST Lancs MP Rosie Cooper gave her backing to the National Energy Action (NEA) charity's Fuel Poverty Awareness Day on Friday (February 23).

Rosie Cooper shows her support for Fuel Poverty Awareness Day.

The event aimed to highlight the problems faced by those struggling to keep warm in their homes and followed the NEA's Warm Homes Campaign to raise awareness of fuel poverty, and in particular the role that low incomes are playing in causing hardship and misery for millions of households across the UK.

The charity says that more than a million families won't be able to meet basic costs of living this winter, facing an income shortfall of up to £9,331 per year (£778 per month) to cover basic essentials, including energy.

It says many vulnerable people will be hit hard, including older people and those in ill-health, on low incomes and living in energy-inefficient homes that are difficult and expensive to heat.

Rosie Cooper said: "Living in a cold, damp home can lead to extremely poor health, especially in those who are vulnerable, such as older people, young children, and those with long-term sickness and disabilities. Stagnant earnings, rising inflation, limited welfare and high energy prices are the perfect storm. In West Lancashire alone, nearly 4,000 households are believed to be in fuel poverty.

"There is, however, excellent work going on locally to tackle this problem, such as the Cosy Homes in Lancashire project run by councils including West Lancs Borough Council. I urge anyone living in a cold home or concerned about their energy bills to visit www.chil.uk.com."

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Care trust and partners shortlisted in new awards

LANCASHIRE Care NHS Foundation Trust and three of its partners have been shortlisted for awards in the new HSJ Partnership Awards 2018.

Report by **Kenny Parker**

Each of the trio have supported the trust to improve the health and wellbeing for people in the county, whilst also being shortlisted for awards at a ceremony which recognises the best partnerships between the NHS and other organisations.

Heather Tierney-Moore, chief executive at Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, said: "We are delighted that our partnerships with GE Healthcare, Home Group and Ward Hadaway have all been shortlisted for the new HSJ Partnership Awards. By working together with other organisations we are able to develop and improve in order to provide the best possible service that we can for the people living in Lancashire."

Home View, an innovative partnership with Home Group has been shortlisted for Best Clinical Support Service.

Heather Tierney-Moore

The 24-hour-a day, supported housing service provides short-term accommodation for adults with mental health problems, who have recently been discharged from hospital. It improves the care pathway and choices for individuals by providing the right care at the right time by supporting them to access suitable accommodation and reintegrate back to independent living.

The trust's Workforce Repository and Planning Tool (WRaPT) application, which is delivered in partnership with GE Healthcare, has been shortlisted for the Consultancy of the Year.

The application has been recognised for its initiative and long-standing partnership between the NHS and private sector, which helps the health and care system to transform during these changes, by providing the tools and techniques to collect, analyse and model information about the whole workforce.

And shortlisted for Legal Service of the Year, is the trust's legal provider Ward Hadaway who have been recognised for the work around the organisation's Knowledge and Legal Advice Centre (KnowLA).

The system enables staff to access internal knowledge and legal advice that may have already been sought or held elsewhere, whilst saving time and avoiding duplication.

The winners will be announced at this year's prestigious ceremony on Thursday, March 8 at the Royal College of Physicians in London.

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Two of the North of England's leading antiques experts will be offering free valuations and advice at Southport's The Prince of Wales Hotel on Saturday 17 March between 10am and 3pm.

Hosted jointly by Thomas Watson's of Darlington and Southport Auctions, this drop-in event provides an ideal opportunity to find out more about a whole range of objects, including silver, jewellery, ceramics, glass, pictures, or other collectibles.

"Many people are surprised by the value of things that they have just tucked away at home and it's always fascinating to learn more about them," said David Elstob, Director of Thomas Watson's auction house and a RICS Chartered Arts and Antiques Surveyor – a qualification that puts him firmly into the industry's highest ranking antiques valuers.

He will be joined at the event by Clive Taylor a Director of Southport Auctions and lecturer on the MA degree in Antiques at the University of Central Lancashire. With over 20 years' experience in the antiques industry, Clive is also a Fellow of the National Association of Valuers and Auctioneers, and is well placed to know what is going up or down in value.

"Market trends do change and prices fluctuate, so an item that wasn't worth much 10 years ago may have rocketed in value today, so it's always worth seeking expert advice," he said. "For instance, Chinese items are very popular at the moment and quality jewellery is reaching very high prices."

All valuations made on the day are without obligation but anyone wishing to sell an item will be given the option to have it included in one of Thomas Watson's forthcoming sales.

Alternatively, if anyone has large or multiple items then house calls can be arranged for Friday 16 March. To make arrangements, please call **01325 462559** or email **enquiries@thomaswatson.com**

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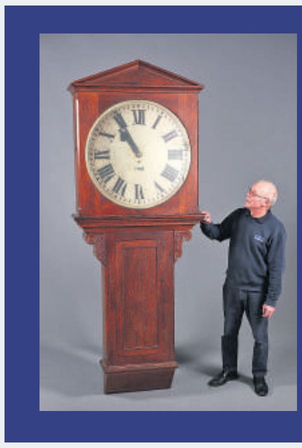

601 - **A VERY LARGE OAK CASED STATION CLOCK**

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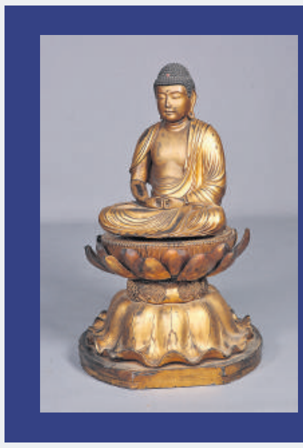

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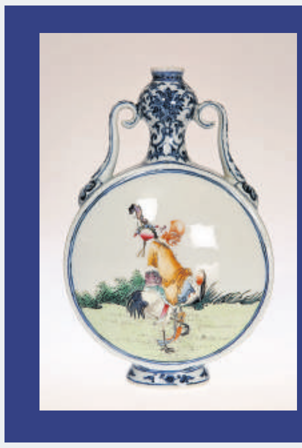

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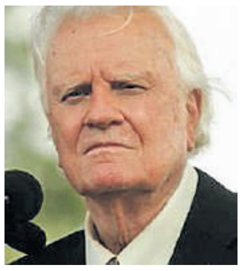
Church leader pays tribute to Billy Graham



Billy Graham, who has passed away aged 99.

A CHURCH minister whose wife was inspired to find her faith by a Billy Graham crusade has paid tribute to the evangelist who died last week at the age of 99.

Reverend Phil Jump, Regional Minister for the North West Baptist Association, has told how the charismatic American’s visit to Liverpool FC’s Anfield stadium in 1984 had a lasting impact on his own family, as well as on churches across the region.

The minister, who lives in Maghull but works with churches throughout the North West, including West Lancashire, said: “We are obviously all saddened by the news of Billy Graham’s death, though we rejoice in a long and fruitful life that has impacted millions around the globe.”

During his long career, Graham, who passed away on Wednesday, February 21, visited 185 countries and preached to an estimated 215 million people.

Rev Jump said: “There are many Christians across Merseyside, West Lancashire and the North West whose lives have been deeply impacted by the ministry of Billy Graham. I am one of many who took part in the Anfield campaign in 1984 and it was during this crusade that my wife Jan found faith.

“As North West Regional Minister, I also had the privilege of visiting his home in North Carolina and met his grandson Will, who along with his wife, is an avid Liverpool supporter so perhaps the Anfield event left its mark on the Graham family too!”

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Edge Hill academics' research challenges 'macho males' myth

RESEARCH conducted by academics at Edge Hill University has challenged the traditional view that working class men are less interested in their health than women or other male groups.

Dr Paul Simpson and Dr Michael Richards, who work in the department of Applied Health and Social Care at the Ormskirk campus, are working on a project which explores the ways in which working-class men across different age groups maintain their health.

The academics have said the stereotypical working class male has been assumed to be less interested in their health as they face pressure to be strong. But after meeting with three local community groups, they have discovered that men are beginning to look to support groups for help and their research has pointed to a subtle change in working-class masculinity.

They have developed a website and matching interactive app based on men's health aimed at men, and particularly those facing disadvantage.

Dr Michael Richards

The website and app provide information about the research that is being carried out, as well as in-depth information about key health-related issues that affect men, particularly in relation to alcohol, drug-use, smoking, diet, exercise and fitness, mental health and sexual health.

Dr Simpson, senior lecturer in Applied Health and Social Care, said: "We wanted to explore the reliability of the dominant story of working-class men lacking care and vigilance about their health and well-being and try to uncover the diverse things that men and know and do about achieving and maintaining health. The web-based app and website aims to underpin this project."

And Dr Richards, lecturer in Applied Health and Social Care, added: "We hope to build on our findings by working collaboratively with our participants to apply for more funds so that we can build on this research, with the hope that our app and website can be used as a tool to get men to think about their health and to improve their everyday lives within the contexts of where they live."

The project has received an award from the university's Research Investment Fund.

Paul and Michael have also put together an article for The Conversation - an independent source of news and views, sourced from the academic and research community and delivered direct to the public - about their research entitled *Macho myth busting: working class men aren't all too tough to seek help*.

Prayer service date for civic couple

THE Mayor and Mayoress of West Lancashire, Councillor Neil and Mrs Julie Furey, will attend a Women's World Day of Prayer Service at St James Church, Westhead on Friday, March 2 from 7.15pm.

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Guides brave the cold at winter adventure camp

MEMBERS of the 4th Ormskirk Guides joined hundreds of other Girlguiders braving the cold weather at an extreme winter camp entitled Sparkle and Ice.

Over the weekend the girls tested their camping skills in near-freezing temperatures and pushed themselves to the limit with a programme full of adventurous activities such muddy assault courses, grass sledging, roller skating, stargazing and abseiling.

Sparkle and Ice was the first of three weekend events to be held at Girlguiding's activity centres during 2018 for girls and young women from across the country, with Magic and Mayhem and Wellies and Wristbands to follow in the summer.

Caz, a Leader from 4th Ormskirk Guides, said: "I really enjoyed our weekend of adventures, the girls had lots of fun and tried out lots of exciting activities, that they haven't tried before.

"It was really heart-warming to see the girls bond as a group. I'm really proud of the girls camping in the cold. It was a first camp experience in guiding for a few of them and I'm sure it will be a memorable one too!"

Members of the 4th Ormskirk Guides suitably attired for the winter weather at the Sparkle and Ice camp.

One Man & His Dog
JIM SHARPE

I can now add curling to my 'shortlist' of sports to watch

I MUST confess that I am not that keen on sports. I do watch snooker, darts and Formula One on TV, and my heart is a little gladdened to see Liverpool, Grimsby or Preston North End (don't ask!) win at football. But that, plus I suppose the Boat Race and the Grand National, is about the limit of my interest.

Oddly enough though I have never seen the National 'live', despite living within a couple of miles of Aintree racecourse. However, I have taken the trouble to travel to Cheltenham for the Gold Cup and to Royal Ascot (twice) for Ladies' Day.

All that preamble to tell you that I have now added another sport to my 'must watch' list - curling! And it came about by pure chance.

I have little real interest in the Winter Olympics. I can see the attraction of the skiing events and the two-person bobsleigh is interesting, but I can't get worked up about the skeleton though I can marvel at the skill and courage needed.

No, my problem with most of these winter events is not that I don't appreciate the brilliance of the competitors, but that simply because they are all of such a tremendously high standard I can't fathom how and why one is better than the other. Yes, the ice races are OK, but even then, not knowing anything about the competitors, I do find it hard actually to get involved.

Anyway, while the Olympics were on it was virtually impossible to turn on BBC1 or 2 without finding yourself in a land of snow. But then, suddenly, I found myself in the middle of a curling contest between Team GB women and some other. And I started to watch.

At first I thought this was rather like a slow game of bowls on ice, but after a short while I began to pick up the general idea of how curling is played and scored. And as a bonus (and I really do hope no-one is going to start saying I'm being sexist or something) the women concerned were fully made up and very pretty.

You can't believe how cross I felt when I learned that we had lost the match - and thereby our chance of a gold medal - because the magic eye machinery reckoned the final player had not released her stone before it passed over the line (I forget what it's called).

This decision was upheld because the camera never lies (oh yes it does!) despite the fact that the team itself and the commentators were as sure as they could be that she had released in time. As everyone knows, cameras can from time to time and for various reasons, give a false reading - but the Gods of the curling rink weren't to be dissuaded.

I surprised myself about how I felt personally cheated over this result, which I thought meant that it was the last I would see of the Ladies' Team GB. Happily, I was wrong about that. Apparently the Byzantine scoring system for curling means that there are all kinds of 'round robins' and other bits and bobs which mean that as I write this, Team GB still had other games to play and could still, I think, get a bronze.

And this is a game where both men and women can compete on level terms. As far as I know, all-mens teams do not actually play women, but there are mixed events and in any case the rules, equipment and 'course' are the same for either.

Actually, after four days of watching this new (for me) sport, I can detect no difference in skill levels either. The only real differences I can spot are that the men tend to make a heck of a lot more noise and many of them sport beards.

Anyhow, because of a chance choice of programme I can now add one more sporting event which I really want to watch.

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Sue: 07817 444580

ASHURST, SKELMERSDALE
The Ashurst Centre, Lyndhurst
3.30pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Sue: 01695 420 305

MAGHULL
Cheshire Lines
(behind Fun Factor)
6.30pm
Michelle: 07931 125172

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The Hope Centre (behind Tesco), Aintree Lane
9.30am & 11.30am
Victoria: 07766 136641

OLD ROAN
The Hope Centre (behind Tesco), Aintree Lane
5pm & 7pm
Victoria: 07766 136641

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The Cricket Club, Blaguegate Lane
5pm & 7pm
Paula: 07484 263698

TUESDAY
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The Cricket Club, Blaguegate Lane
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Paula: 07484 263698

WEDNESDAY
ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club, Green Lane
9.30 & 11.30am
Tina: 0151 548 4266

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club, Green Lane
5.30 & 7.30pm
Tina: 0151 548 4266

MAGHULL
The Cheshire Lines
(behind Fun Factor)
4.30 & 6.30pm
Emma: 07414 223 617

UP HOLLAND
Up Holland Methodist Church, Alma Hill
9.30am
Sarah: 07969 395302

UP HOLLAND
Up Holland Methodist Church, Alma Hill
3.30, 5.30 & 7.30pm
Sarah: 07969 395302

BURSCOUGH
Burscough Cricket Club
School Lane
3.30pm, 5.30 & 7.30pm
Kathy: 07815 199346

THURSDAY
AUGHTON
Aughton Village Hall, Winifred Lane
8.00am & 10.00am
Zoe: 01695 580 966

AUGHTON
Scout and Guide Hut
(behind Christ Church), Long Ln
5.30 & 7.30pm
Zoe: 01695 580 966

MAGHULL
The Cheshire Lines
(behind Fun Factor)
3.00pm 5:00pm & 7.00pm
Sue: 07957 531346

DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Digmoor Community Centre, Birleywood
9.30am & 11.30am
Jackie: 07888 830892

DIGMOOR, SKELMERSDALE
Digmoor Community Centre, Birleywood
4.30pm & 6.30pm
Tina: 0151 548 4266

FRIDAY
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Altys Lane
9am
Zoe: 01695 580966

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9:30am & 11:30am
Sue: 07957 531346

SATURDAY
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Greenhill Community Room
Beech Close
(Off Lancaster Cres)
8am & 10am
Sarah: 07969 395302

ORMSKIRK
Ormskirk Rugby Club
Green Lane
7.30am & 9.30am
Tina: 0151 548 4266
New Consultant as from 17th March

ORMSKIRK
St Anne's School, Aughton Street, Ormskirk
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Sue: 07817 444580

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(behind Fun Factor)
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Chance to have a say on proposed changes to county council advocacy service

Report by **Kenny Parker**

AN online consultation was launched on Monday (February 26) offering Lancashire residents and partner organisations the opportunity to share their views on proposals to reduce the county council's advocacy service.

During the eight-week consultation people can have their say by filling in a questionnaire on Lancashire County Council's website.

Because of the budget constraints faced by the authority, the cabinet proposed to reduce the budget for its low-level advocacy service - which it does not have to provide by law - at its meeting in December.

The statutory level advocacy service, which the county council has a legal duty to provide, will be unaffected by this proposal and continue as usual. The county council will also continue to commission a single point of contact for advocacy services.

These support vulnerable people with the help of an 'advocate' to obtain and understand the information they need, attend meetings with them in a supportive role, or speak up for them in situations where they don't feel able to speak for themselves.

County Councillor Graham Gooch, Lancashire's cabinet member for adult services, said: "This is a very tough decision. We have to reduce the budget given the difficult financial situation the county council is in.

County Councillor Graham Gooch, Lancashire's cabinet member for adult services.

"Our statutory service provides more intensive support to the most vulnerable people and we want to maintain the current level of service we provide. We will also continue to provide the Advocacy Hub as a single point of contact for people who need support.

Split

"Our proposal is to reduce the non-statutory advocacy service which provides lower level support, by 50%."

The current non-statutory advocacy support is split into three levels.

Level 1 provides support to people who are able to self-advocate, but need help to access and understand specific information before feeling confident to move forward independently.

Level 2 provides a single session of face-to-face support with an experienced and trained advocate.

Level 3 provides a maximum of six face-to-face sessions.

Under the proposals Level 3 support would be discontinued. Face-to-face support would be removed from Level 2 and replaced with a single session of one-to-one contact, provided via telephone, email, or other digital channels. The current level 1 service would remain in place.

County Councillor Gooch added: "We've looked at how advocacy services are used and have put together a proposal that means we can save up to £74,000.

"The vast majority of people who use advocacy access the statutory service, and the level one support from the non-statutory service. Our proposal involves continuing to operate these parts of the service in the same way.

"However, we need to give the people who use the advocacy services and the organisations that support them, the chance to share their views.

"We will consider what they say before any decision about the non-statutory advocacy service is made."

People can share their views by visiting: http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/council/get-involved/consultations.

Got a story? Ring the News Desk on 01704 392400

Charities launch appeal in bid to halt plummeting hedeghog numbers

RESIDENTS in West Lancashire are being urged to make their gardens more hedgehog-friendly after a report revealed that their numbers in the UK have halved in the last two decades.

The State of Britain's Hedgehogs 2018, published jointly by the British Hedgehog Preservation Society (BHPS) and People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) shows that hedgehogs in rural areas are in severe decline, with numbers plummeting since the turn of the century.

Emily Wilson, officer for the joint charities' public action campaign, Hedgehog Street, said: "There are many reasons hedgehogs are in trouble. The intensification of agriculture through the loss of hedgerows and permanent grasslands, increased field sizes, and the use of pesticides which reduce the amount of prey available are all associated with the plunge in numbers in rural areas."

Declined

The report does have a more positive outlook for hedgehogs in towns and cities. Although the species has declined by a third in urban areas since 2000, the rate of decline is slowing.

It found that hedgehogs are not disappearing from urban green spaces as rapidly as they were 15 years ago, and might even be returning. Where they are found, numbers too, appear to be growing in some places.

Volunteers can join the Hedgehog Street project and make their gardens more hog-friendly. So far, more than 47,000 Hedgehog Champions have signed up to help.

Emily Wilson added: "Urban and suburban areas are becoming increasingly important for hedgehogs, so we need more people in those locations to sign up as Hedgehog Champions. The more people can do to help them in their own back garden, the more they will also benefit other wildlife."

Anyone interested can find out more at hedgehog-street.org.

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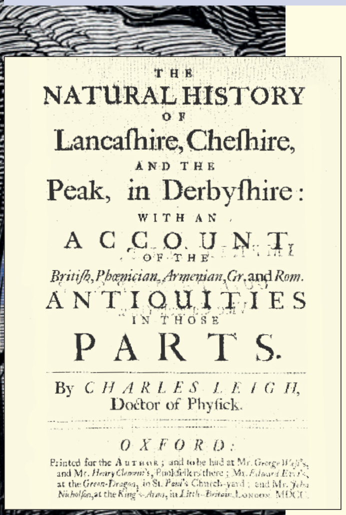

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Natural History of Lancashire, Cheshire

Charles Leigh (1700)

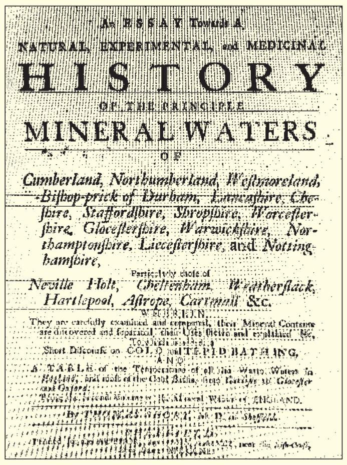
Around 1690, Charles Leigh, a physician compared the spring water, to the then famous healing water springs and baths in Harrogate. Leigh commented that having similar qualities, it would allow nearby patrons to have their illnesses or ailments cured locally.

Preston Chronicle
AND LANCASHIRE ADVERTISER.
SATURDAY, MARCH 30, 1839.

The Preston Chronicle

March 30, 1839

“Wonderful cure by water from the Mawdesley Saline and Sulphurous Fountain – A young woman, of the name of Ditchfield, a resident in the Holmes Wood, near Rufford, who has been obliged to use crutches for nearly seven years in consequence of having been lamed in her leg and ankle by an accident which happened to her when she was a girl, having heard of the Mawdesley “Salt Pit’, she was indeed to procure some of it’s water, and apply it by way of lotion to her leg and ankle. After a short time she experienced great benefit from it’s use, and is now, to her great pleasure and astonishment, enable to walk without crutches – and perform her work and journeys with the greatest ease and comfort .”



An ESSAY Towards A
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Particularly thoſe of
Neville Holt, Cheltenham, Weatherſlack, Hartlepool, Aſtrope, Cartmell &c.
WHEREIN,
They are carefully examined and compared, their Mineral Contents are diſcovered and ſeparated, their Uſes ſhewn and explained, &c.
To which is added, a
Short Diſcourſe on COLD and TEPID BATHING,
AND
A TABLE of the Temperature of all the Warm Waters in *England*; and moſt of the Cold Baths, from *Carliſle* to *Gloceſter* and *Oxford*.

The History of the Principle of Mineral Waters

Dr. Thomas Short (1740)

Short, having visited the spring, commented on the high mineral content, the medicinal qualities of the water and how it could benefit people who could both drink or bathe in the water. Short also recognised the water had previously cured ‘cutaneous disorders and ulcers.’

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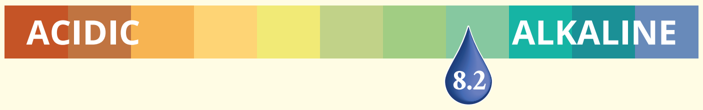

Alkaline water is believed to provide health benefits – there are reports that drinking alkaline water can assist: acid reflux, allergies, arthritis, asthma, back pain, eczema, chronic fatigue, colitis pain, heart burn, high cholesterol, migraines and morning sickness.

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>
> *Dr Robbie Hughes,*
> *Dental Excellence UK*

Alkaline water and dental health

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The choir from St Anne's Catholic Primary School, Ormskirk

School songsters aiming to hit the high notes in county choir challenge

The choir from St Michael's CE Primary School, Aughton

Report by **Kenny Parker**

YOUNG songsters from two West Lancs primary schools are set to compete against each other in the first of seven heats in Lancashire's Last Choir Singing competition.

The choirs from St Anne's Catholic Primary, Ormskirk, and St Michael's CE Primary, Aughton, will also be up against up six rivals from schools in Preston and Chorley when they take to the stage at Croston Theatre, Westholme School, Blackburn on Thursday, March 1.

Each school will sing two songs - one chosen by the organisers and one of their own choice - with the winners securing a place at the finals to be held at King George's Hall, Blackburn in June.

The winning choir in the final will receive £1,000 towards music equipment for their school and the runners-up £500. Winners of the regional heats receive £250 each.

Now in its fourth year, the competition aimed at primary schools in the county, has grown in popularity with 50 schools taking part this year. Funded and organised by True Bearing Chartered Financial Planners of Chorley, the competition is co-sponsored by Pennine Wealth Solutions.

James Cairns, leader of the two West Lancs choirs, said: "St Anne's has a long tradition of celebrating music in the school. The choir consists of 45 children, all born performers. And they love to go and watch other performers, such as the Philharmonic Orchestra."

St Michael's is a newly-formed choir, consisting of 25 members.

James said: They are very focussed and are very keen to learn. Their enthusiasm, passion and drive shines through and they are very much looking forward to taking part in the Last Choir Singing. It will be a great experience for them."

Anita Shaw, project manager of the competition, added: "We are delighted to have St Anne's and St Michael's in the competition and we hope it will encourage other Ormskirk schools to enter next year."

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Happy Mother's Day to Mum's everywhere!

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Sunday 11th March

Mother's Day is one of those dates that changes each year and in the UK, we celebrate it on the fourth Sunday of Lent, usually three weeks before Easter Sunday. It dates back to ancient Greek times but evolved from the 16th century practice of people returning to visit their 'mother' church – the local church in which they were baptised.

Domestic servants were often given the day off to return to their home towns, allowing them to worship with their families and church services are said to have focused on Mary, the mother of Jesus. In more recent times, the day has moved away from its religious meaning and is now mostly just a day to show our Mum's how much they are truly loved and appreciated!

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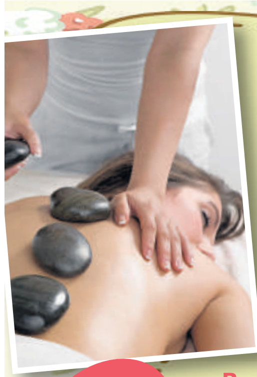

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Consultation launched on halal meat proposals

LANCASHIRE County Council has launched a consultation on proposals to provide only stunned halal meat to schools.

The council currently supplies non-stunned halal meat in 27 schools catering for up to 12,000 students choosing from either non-halal or halal menus. School governing bodies have the option to provide either stunned or non-stunned halal in their school meals.

Last October the council decided not to provide halal meat - except poultry - to council establishments unless the animal had been stunned before being slaughtered.

Challenge

But the decision was not implemented following a legal challenge by the Lancashire Council of Mosques and the council said it would take another vote on the matter after a public consultation.

Members of the public are now invited to comment on the proposal to provide only stunned halal meat to schools.

During the consultation, which runs until Wednesday, March 7, the council will continue to supply halal meat under the terms of a contract which was in place before the decision was made.

The consultation is available at www.lancashire.gov.uk/haveyoursay.

Robert and Agnes Seddon share a romantic moment at the Kicking Donkey on Valentine's Day.

Still sharing the romance of St Valentine's Day - 62 years after tying the knot!

A COUPLE who tied the knot 62 years ago have proved you're never too old to enjoy the romance of Valentine's Day!

Octogenarians Robert and Agnes Seddon were among a group of residents from the Hillcroft Residential Care Home in Aughton who enjoyed a special Valentine's trip to The Kicking Donkey in Scarisbrick.

Megan Campbell, activities and events co-ordinator at the home in Long Lane, said: "Robert and Agnes have regularly been to the pub over the years - or 'The Kicker' as Robert calls it - so it was lovely for them to return there for a Valentine's meal.

"They thoroughly enjoyed the romantic setting."

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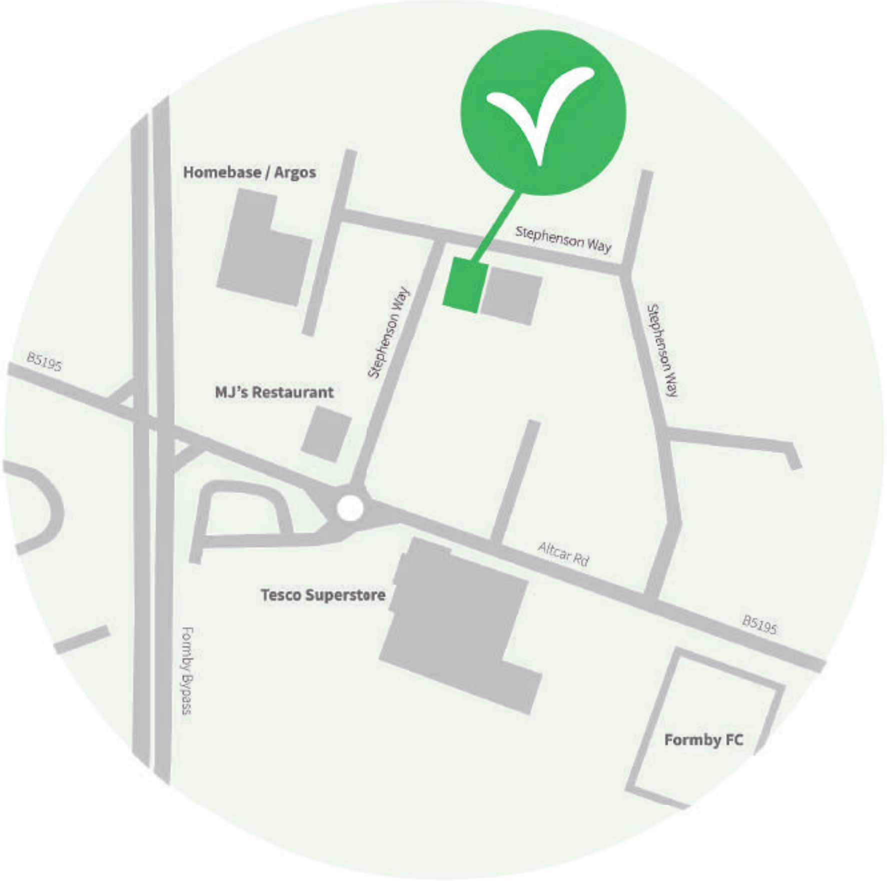
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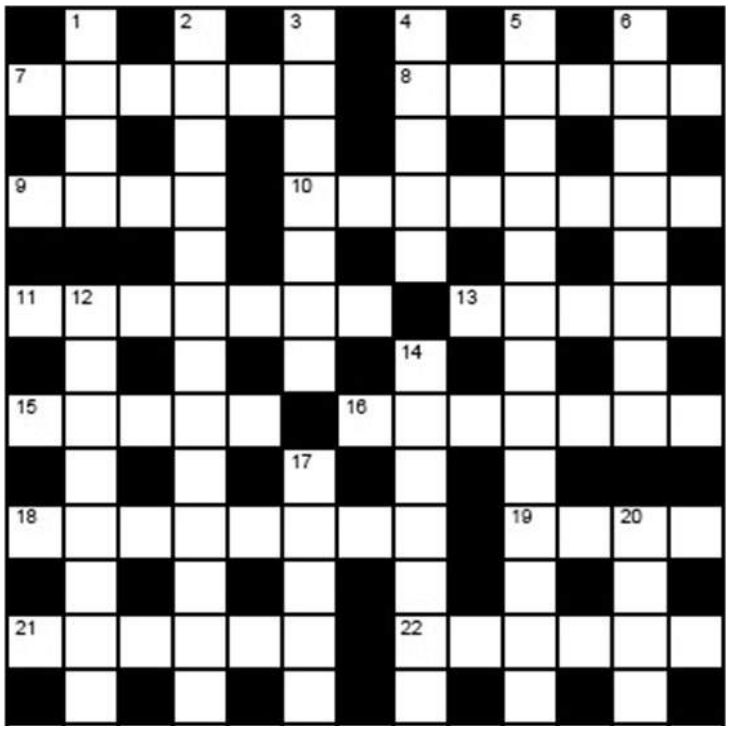

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7. Easy listening. 8. On the sly. 9. Teal. 10. Turning. 12. Theft. 14. Usual. 16. Miracle. 19. Damp. 20. Goalpost. 22. Electoral roll.

Down: 1. Barn. 2. Python. 3. Dissent. 4. Stays. 5. Snitch. 6. Unlawful. 11. Unstable. 13. Die away. 15. Alpaca. 17. Aspire. 18. Igloo. 21. Sell.

ACROSS

7. A worthless or contemptible person (2-4)
8. Slight earthquake (6)
9. Rhyming composition (4)
10. The possibility or likelihood of some future event occurring (8)
11. Indistinctly, slightly (7)
13. Sudden explosive nasal sound expressing derision or incredulity (5)
15. Eat between meals (5)
16. Intoxicating liquor (7)
18. Intended for or likely to be understood only by those with specialised knowledge (8)
19. Plant related to the onion used as a Welsh national emblem (4)
21. Long, loose traditional Japanese robe with wide sleeves, tied with a sash (6)
22. A man who has been castrated (6)

DOWN

1. Company emblem (4)
2. Exchange of information by speaking, writing or other medium (13)
3. In a skilled or accomplished manner (7)
4. One of the Three Musketeers (5)
5. An indoor sport (3-3, 7)
6. Musical composition for a solo instrument or instruments accompanied by an orchestra (8)
12. Person who believes that nothing is known or can be of the existence or nature of God (8)
14. Slow moving mass of ice (7)
17. Long-handled brush of bristles or twigs, used for sweeping (5)
20. Every one (4)

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Packed venue enjoys Russell Watson concert

Review by Pete Rimmer

Russell Watson - Canzoni D'Amore!
Southport Theatre

EVEN before entering the theatre you know exactly what to expect from this concert. It's all about love songs, and hundreds of Russell Watson fans turned out to see this great performer sing them and more.

I have never seen Russell Watson live so it was with great interest to go along and see what he's all about.

A string quartet, bass, piano, and percussion make up the orchestra and it is a great combination, giving depth to the music and they are able to play all styles.

In the first half of the concert Russell performed various songs from his extensive back catalogue including the Love Theme from The Godfather, Moon River and This is the Moment from the stage musical, Jekyll and Hyde. A standout track of the first half was Nature Boy, the Nat King Cole song.

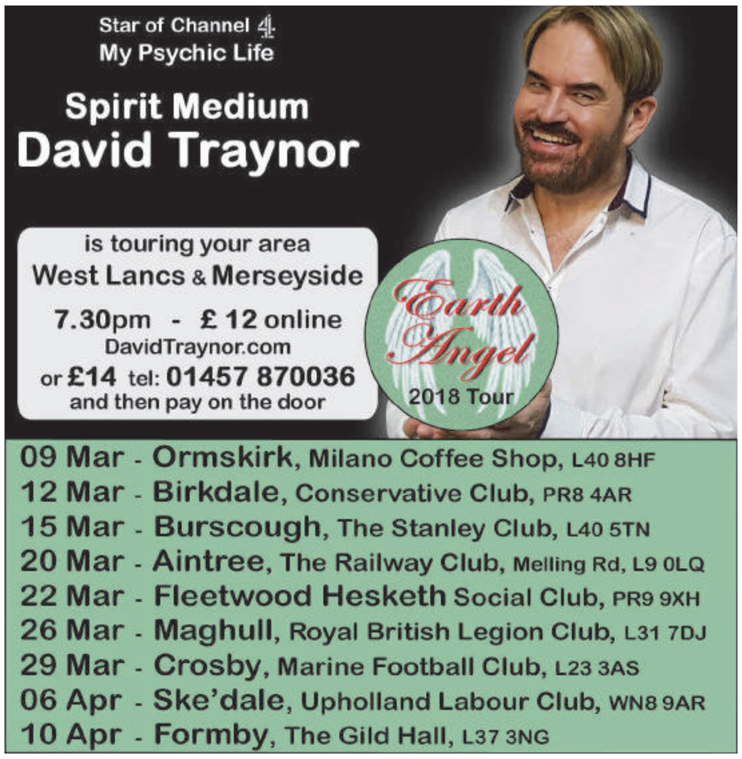
If the concert had gone on in this style I would have been more than satisfied but after the interval it certainly moved up a gear with 12 members of the Birmingham Voices Choir backing favourite's such as Phantom of the Opera. Russell was joined for this and a couple of other items by soprano Laura Wright. We even had an audience participation rendering of Volare. Laura was given her own spot and sang a great version of Hallelujah.

A few more songs followed, everything from a rousing version of Funiculi, Funiculà to Les Miserables plus a tribute to Elton John after which it was all over.

Russell Watson

The whole evening was full of good humour and great musicianship, very good staging and sound, what more can you ask?

Star Rating 10/10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10 Apr - Formby, The Gild Hall, L37 3NG

War Horse's Songman coming to village hall

PARBOLD Douglas Music is delighted to present the well- known folk singer and guitarist, Bob Fox, who starred as Songman in the National Theatre's acclaimed production of War Horse, performing in the Auditorium in the Village Hall on Saturday, March 10 at 7.45 p.m.

It has been said that Bob Fox possesses one of the best folk-singing voices in England and he evokes the world of the miners and, in general, the songs of the northeast, with power and clarity.

His masterful interpretation of traditional and contemporary songs is one of his greatest strengths. The audience can look forward to his performance of songs from 'War Horse' and others from his folk song collection.

Bob Fox was born in 1953 in Seaham, County Durham, UK, the son of a miner. After discovering he could sing while in school he taught himself guitar and started singing in folk clubs while at the same time training to be a teacher in Durham, where he qualified in 1975.

He commenced his singing career as a resident at the "Davy Lamp" Folk Club in Washington, Tyne and Wear, where he, teamed up to form a professional duo with fellow north-eastern singer (and fiddle player) Tom McConville for two years.

Later he formed a duo with ex-Hedgehog Pie singer, guitarist and acoustic bass guitar player Stu Luckley. They performed all over the United Kingdom and recorded two albums, the first of which Nowt So Good'll Pass was voted Folk Album of the Year by Melody Maker in 1978.

Bob Fox and Stu Luckley became a popular attraction on the UK folk scene and supported Richard and Linda Thompson and Ralph McTell on major British tours.

Bob Fox

After ceasing the partnership with Luckley in 1982 to pursue individual projects, Bob has maintained a successful career as a solo folk performer for over 30 years. During the 1990s, together with Benny Graham he developed a multimedia show documenting the coal mining communities of Durham and Northumberland, which led to the CD How Are You Off For Coals, featuring a selection of mining songs.

In 2006 Bob, along with a range of other top UK folk artists, was involved in providing performances for the "2006 Radio Ballads" commissioned by BBC Radio.

In 2009 he performed as Songman in War Horse which played in the West End and was subsequently toured around Britain and Ireland.

A limited number of stand-by tickets is always available at the Box Office on the evening of the concert.

For more information log on to www.parbolddouglasmusic.org, e-mail: tickets@parbolddouglasmusic.org; or telephone: 01257 498452 (booking answerphone).

Tom Kimmance performing at group's spring evening

THE orchestra of Ormskirk Music Society are presenting their Spring concert at 7.30pm on Saturday, March 17 at Ormskirk School, Wigan Road, L39 2AT.

The programme will feature: Grieg - Piano Concerto with pianist, Tom Kimmance; Tchaikovsky - Symphony No. 4 in F Minor; and Sullivan - Overture di Ballo.

The orchestra will be performing Tchaikovsky's dramatic Fourth Symphony ('Fate'), and Arthur Sullivan's sparkling and animated Overture di Ballo.

The orchestra are delighted to welcome back star pianist, Tom Kimmance, for a performance of Edward Grieg's piano concerto in A Minor.

Under the baton of musical director, Jim Cooke, the orchestra performs a broad range of music from the great symphonies and concertos to the work of contemporary British composers, film music and light orchestral selections.

They give four concerts each year, three jointly with the choir and one exclusively orchestral concert.

Piano Virtuoso Tom Kimmance was born in Liverpool, where his musical career began as a self taught pianist at 13 years of age. He progressed to the University of Liverpool, where he completed his BA Hons Music with the highest mark on record for a solo undergraduate performance.

After gaining a first class masters degree in 2008, Tom has been in demand as a concert pianist for orchestras across the UK. His repertoire has included concertos by Mozart, Beethoven, Atterburg, Gershwin, Grieg, Rachmaninov, Tchaikovsky plus many more.

Tom also performs as a chamber musician, solo recitalist and appears regularly as a duet partner with John Gough.

Alongside his performing career, Tom teaches at the University of Liverpool. He is also an accompanist and keen composer and his works have been performed across the North of England.

Tickets are available in advance from Catherine Ness (01695 556548) or catherine.oms@btinternet.com or on the door priced at £10, £5 for children. For more information, visit ormskirkmusicsociety.org.uk or follow on Twitter @ormskirk_music

Think Floyd set to grace resort's theatre

DUBBED the Definitive Pink Floyd Experience, Think Floyd are set to grace the stage at Southport Theatre with a celebration of the music of one of the world's greatest bands, on Friday, March 23 at 7.30pm.

The show will feature music from all 15 Floyd albums, beginning with the 1967 classic The Piper at the Gates of Dawn, through to The Dark Side of the Moon and Wish You Were Here, all the way to the band's final studio album, The Endless River.

Expect to hear classics such as Time, Another Brick in the Wall, One of These Days and The Great Gig in the Sky.

Pink Floyd's Nick Mason describes the band as "Brilliant! - They are really good."

In a recent interview on LBC the drummer commended Think Floyd and rather generously called them "better than we are."

Recreating a concert experience that is authentic to the sound, atmosphere and musical excellence of one of the greatest musical icons, this production aims to be a first-class evening of pure Pink Floyd.

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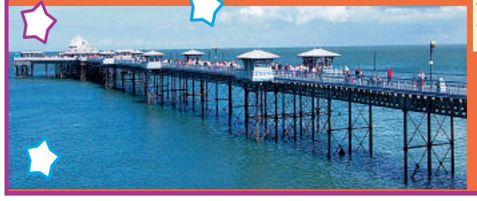

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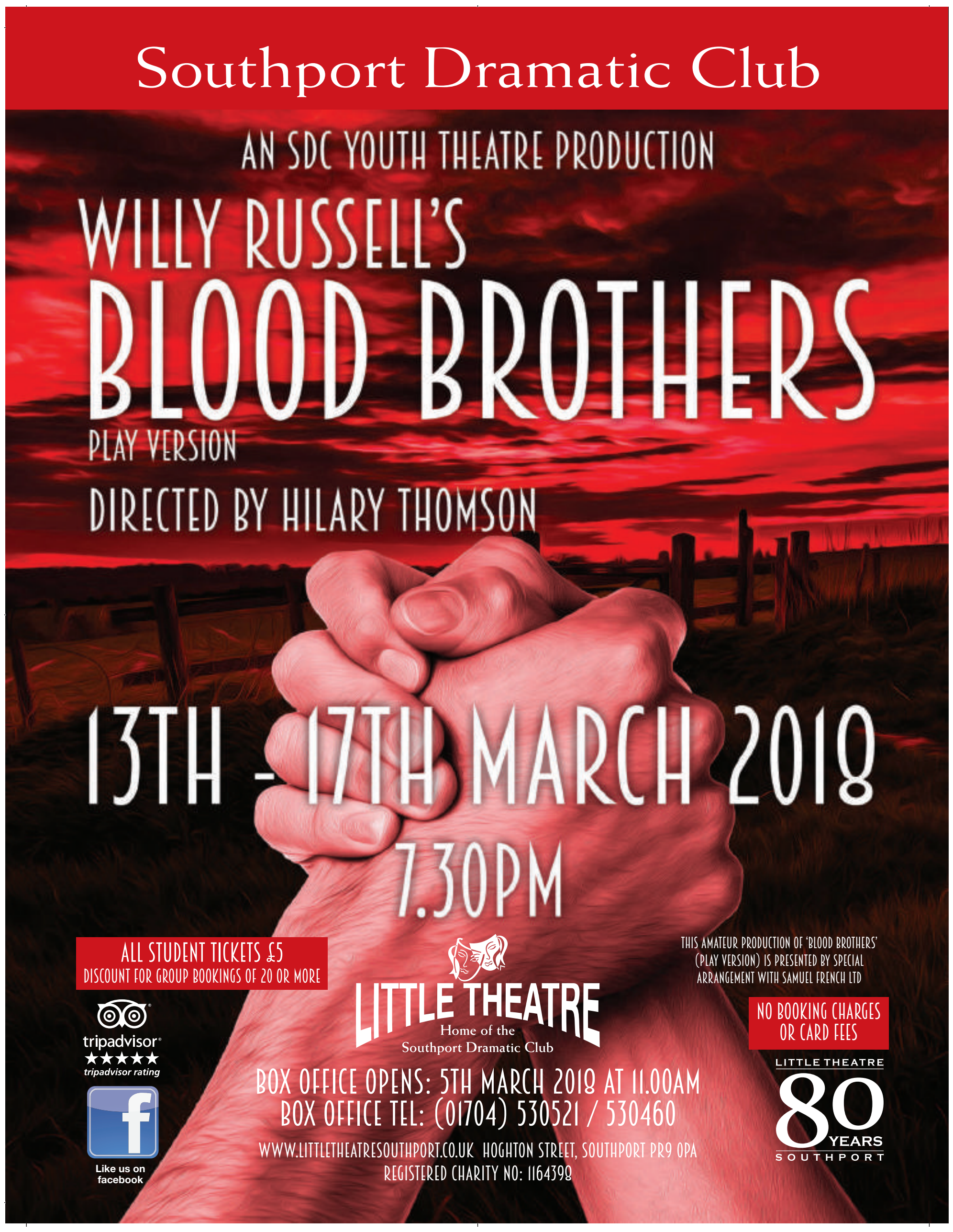

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Once everything was in place there was only one thing left to do. The plan was hatched and during a romantic Valentine's duet in the pub, Paul dropped to one knee and proposed to long-time partner Gel Taylor in front of all of his customers.

That September The Junction hosted its first ever Wedding, Paul and Gel's. "Not only was it one of the best days of our lives, it was a great way to prove that The Junction really was the ideal wedding venue that we've always believed it to be", said Paul. "Our wedding was the works, 100 guests for the ceremony, a massive marquee for family and friends and lots of live music for the reception, it was just what we wanted".

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18	**THE BARRICADE BOYS** Stars of Les Misérables live in one revolutionary concert
19	**YOU'VE GOT A FRIEND** Celebrating the music of James Taylor and Carole King
20	**JACKSON LIVE IN CONCERT - WHO'S BAD** Show dedicated to the King of Pop, Michael Jackson
21	**SMOKIE**
22	**JOE LONGTHORNE**
23	**THINK FLOYD**
24	**KATHERINE RYAN - GLITTER ROOM**

MARCH CONT

27	**ENGLAND LEGENDS LIVE** An evening with Peter Reid, Phil Thompson and David Johnson
28	**DUSTY AND THE SHADES OF THE 60S** Celebrating the life and music of one of the most iconic female artistes of our time
29	**WHITNEY - QUEEN OF THE NIGHT** A stunning celebration of the music, the life, the star
30	**HEATWAVE & THE VOICE OF ROSE ROYCE, GWEN DICKEY**

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13	**JASON MANFORD - MUDDLE CLASS**
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LEATHER COUCHES 2 x brown chesterfield leather couches, nearly new - £2200 ono 07860772784

HOTPOINT ELECTRIC Double Oven BD52. Overall decent condition. For further details please ring. £30.00 07773 698733

PINE FURNITURE Pine table (extendable) and four chairs. Good condition £75 01704509913/07790543091

GARDEN FURNITURE White oval garden table plus 4 recline chairs and cushions,free to collect 01704211416

HOOVER SPRITZ with tools, 700w, as new, hardly used, ideal for student houses £15 ono 01695 574378

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HOUSE AND HOME

LG FRIDGE/FREEZER multi airflow, no frost, W23" D22.5" H66", quick freeze £60 ono 0151 5263197

LIGHT TAUPE coloured sanitised curtains, as new, with ring holes for pole threading, 64" drop x 72" long, £6 01772 751325

SIGNED PRINTS x 3, by W. Huntingdon of Jersey, Isle of Wight and Cornwall, £20 each 01704 576091

SOFA 3-SEATER jumbo cord, ivory colour, from smoke and pet free home £50 ono 07842 280510

SUITE 3+2 seater sofas, silver grey and black crushed velvet, excellent condition, barely used £270 0151 2818247

TV TABLE black glass, two shelves, chrome legs, H50cm L100cm W46cm £10 01704 532130

CEILING LIGHT in polished brass with three lights and glass shades may deliver £9 ono 01515263851

TABLE LAMP A traditional oil style brass effect table lamp with unusual glass shade, Aintree .£39.00 07434841029

FREE Hotpoint dishwasher and tumble dryer. Working order. dryer needs slight attention. 01513524734

DINING ROOM suite. extending table W42"xL64-82", glass fronted dresser W62"xD16"xH85", six chairs inc 2 carvers £500 01257 464975

BOOKCASE MAHOGANY Colour wood,6ft high X 3ft wide,4 adjustable shelves,good quality,not flatpack type. £50. 01704 530137

MOBILE PHONE Samsung,in white,very compact,folding type,almost new,still in box with charger and instructions, on O2 network. £10. 01704 530137

PUNCH BOWL Silver plate on copper,large,with 12 matching cups and ladle,on large round tray,good quality, made by Viners. £75. 01704 530137

CREAM CURTAINS To fit pole 92in drop 82in.Satin sheen Pinch Pleat heading fully lined John Lewis made to measure excellent quality £75 01695 576078

FIRE SURROUND Modern plain wooden surround no pattern W54in H47in fire opening H34in W32in excellent condition £75 01695 576078

DINING TABLE Teak oval table 60ins long, extending to 84ins with 6 neutrally upholstered chairs. All in good clean condition. £80 01515262055

CHURCH PRINT Limited edition hand coloured etched framed print of Ormskirk Church [161 of 350]. From original lithograph by Paul Breen. £20 01704 893484

G-PLAN Dining room suite (teak) including table, 6 chairs (2 carvers) sideboard with display unit. Good condition £95 01704509913/07790543091

HOUSE AND HOME

DARK OAK Coffee table / TV stand with shelf. Top in two leaves will open to double size. 910x 450x360mm. £30 01704 212174

MARBLE TABLES Nest of three 490mm x 350mm x 385mm (largest). Excellent condition. Removal forces sale. £40 01704 212174

5 CAKE STANDS 5 glass one tier stands £20 no text withheld number great value no offers great for gifts weddings parties etc 07504685036

BATHROOM CABINET nearly new, full mirror door, 2 shelves, size 60x40cm, white £9. Bush radio cassette recorder £10 01772 751325

BLACK RANGE cooker, splashback, 39x31", good condition. Sylvan vintage style vase/jug, No 427, no chips or cracks £15 01704 222769

COFFEE TABLE lovely rounded edges, bluish grey marble with marble feet, cost £600, bargain £40. 01704 260906 07860 666955

CREAM CHEST of drawers and matching bedside cabinet, both on castors for easy movement, priced to sell quickly, £25 01704 506539

IKEA 'POANG' chair, beech veneer frame with white cushion pad, ideal for conservatory, bedroom etc, excellent condition £10 01704 880129

KITCHEN/DINING table and 4 chairs, table 5'x3' with small chip in one corner, 2 chairs need to be recovered £30 ono 01704 469828

LIGHT FITTINGS brass and glass, ceiling fitting, two 5 light, one 3 light, suit any room, £20 each or all for £50 07977 344241

NEW DOOR white four panelled door 2'6 x 6'6 £10. Full rolls of cork, ideal for walls or floors, also adhesive, new£20 07934 496817

PINE EFFECT table 3ft x 3ft, extends to 6ft, excellent condition, first to see will buy this superb piece of furniture £60ono 07751 036338

TWO CEILING lights each with three lights and glass shades in polished brass will sell separately may deliver £16 ono 01515263851

WALL OVAL shaped mirror with rosewood coloured surround excellent condition and quality from John Lewis may deliver £6 ono 01515263851

WOODEN TABLE Table with granite inserts and 4 X Chairs. Width - 141cm, Depth - 80cm, Height - 74cm. COLLECTION. £115 ono. 07771259380

CREAM SOFA Large and comfortable in good condition. Smoke pet free. Measures 7' long, 3' tall and 3'3" deep. Bargain £25 07429428989

STOKERS RECLINER 3 Seater Leather Sofa in a Rich Burgundy Colour. Excellent condition (as new) - £400.00 ONO If interested please call 07989677525

HOUSE AND HOME

STORAGE UNIT square in beach with 2 closed cupboards and 2 open cupboards. Ideal for small room/bedroom. Great condition £30 ono 07935641474

VENETIAN BLINDS X 2 horizontal blinds in white including all fittings size 47" & 48" in width Good condition £20 07935641474

NATUZZI EDITIONS brown leather suite comprising of 3 seater + 2 seater + footstool, perfect condition non smokers - 4 years old-£650ono tel. 01695572426

CHAISE LONGUE beautiful Chaise Longue by NEXT biscuit colour with charcoal scrolls excellent condition £125 ono (cost over £600 new) Southport Area 07713329070

SAUNA CABIN 2 Person. Infra Red, 4ft X 4ft,with toughened glass door,C.D. Player/Radio,ozone,lighting inside and out,virtually brand new. £900. 01704 530137

FILING CABINET New condition five drawer desktop filing cabinet. light grey with mid blue drawers. 12in tall 11 wide and 13 deep to take A4 size documents .£10.00 01704 546978

KITCHEN/OFFICE BIN Small Curver swing top, detachable lid. brown and beige. Size 12 in H, 8 in W and 7 in D. good condition with spare liners. £8.00 01704 546978

SHOWER BATH L.shaped shower bath Rt. Hd., inc. screen and taps.L.1675, shower area 850 x 800 Excellent condition. Can send pictures.£120 07811750732

FILING CABINET IKEA purchase Beech Filing Cabinet, silver handles, 4 draw, on castors, excellent quality with lock and keys. Partitioned draws. As new condition. £40 ono 07876701547

NURSERY CHAIR Beautiful Victorian nursery chair, very comfortable and well made, luxury soft material with sprung seating and solid wood legs. £130 ono 07876701547

BATHROOM ACCESSORIES Gold plated. Ceramic tumbler & holder, ceramic soap dish, shower tidies, glass shelf & fittings, towel rail. Good quality. Exc. condition. £45.00 07759374064

CEILING LIGHTS Two top quality Glass Pendant Ceiling Lights and Brass Fittings plus three matching wall-light shades. Perfect condition. £20.00 07759374064

CONSERVATORY FURNITURE Modern cane conservatory furniture including two chairs and two-seater settee. Good condition £95 01704509913/07709543091

AEG WASHING machine, good condition with instructions £50. Microwave, Russell Hobbs, cream, good working order, instruction book £10 01772 812767

HOUSE AND HOME

CLOAK ROOM corner unit with basin and stainless steel tap, white £10. Two white matching 3ft single headboards, perfect condition £20 for2 07934 496817

COUCHES Corner, nice modern £450 ono. American fridge freezer, newish £400. Fishtank, accessories and stand £290. Chest drawers, black, newish £280 01695 356122

DOUBLE HEADBOARD padded, colour grape (purple), as new £15. Matching colour Dunelm slumber rug, size 80x150, as new £25 or both £35 01704 506539

VICTORIAN HALL mirror with coat hooks, panelled oak £45. Small mahogany table GCD £8. 2 matching bedside cabinets, mahogany, excellent condition £45 07934 496817

2 PICTURES 17"x33" in mahogany frames/gold gilt inlay/glazed by British Painter, Marcos Stone. Winter and the Fall-both of ladies, period dress. Ex condition. £12 each or 2 for £20. 07855222552

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REMY MARTIN Games Barrel',Mahogany. £50 01704875561

LADIES NIKE trainers, white size 6, £15. Childs guitar with bag £20 0151 5260731

SUITCASE 4 wheels, lightweight, used twice, only £25 0151 531891

BOXES OF household items ideal for car boot sale £40 01515263851

WINE RACK Wooden wine rack with metal frame £10 07897228418

NOKIA 7373 swivel camera phone in brown/gold locked to orange excellent condition £18 01704220356

REMY MARTIN 'Make four' game in wooden box with Remy Martin brass label. £30 01704 875561

MOTOROLA G4 16gb, unlocked, boxed with charger and cover, as new, 5.5" screen £80 07960 317022

ROYAL SELANGOR pewter money box, never used, smoke and pet free home, £80 no offers 0151 5263311

SAMSUNG Genio 2 mobile phone pink/black locked to Tesco. Bluetooth/handsfree/camera and more excellent condition £18 01704220356

CREATIVE LABS Computer speakers inspire T20 built-in amp, volume, bass, treble controls mint condition, great sound.£35 07504888423

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TRAVEL BAG navy, tan trim £5. Trolley case, navy approved size £5. Ladies boots, Clarks black leather, knee high, size 7, £10 01695 573103

EVERTON PROGRAMMES around 400 1964-1980s still have tokens no writting excellent some finals bargain the lot £35 01515319425/07773242918

SECURITY MIRROR Large bevelled security mirror. 24inches diameter with attached wall bracket. £70 01695424360 /017552174424

GOLD CHAIN beautiful 24" 9ct gold fine curb chain and 1" 9ct cross, 3.6 grams, case, would make lovely present £120 01704831977

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MISC

GOLD BRACELETS 9ct curb design, hallmarked solid gold 8 inches 7.5 or 15 grams, mans or ladies, would make very nice presents £165 or £325 01704831977

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The positions are subject to an enhanced DBS Disclosure and POVA/POCA check.

Revitalise is committed to equal opportunities - Registered charity no. 295072

If you are interested in joining our committed team and want more information or an application pack please call Steph Sutherland, Head of Care, on:
01704 538388 or email **ssutherland@revitalise.org.uk**

www.revitalise.org.uk

We look forward to hearing from you soon!

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IN MEMORIAM

Johnson Patricia

27th February 2005

The hardest thing
in life to bear,
is to want your Nan
and she's not there.

Loving granddaughter
Alison X X

Love and miss you
loads Gran, Great
Granddaughter
Aimée X X

Johnson Patricia

27th February 2005

We can't have the old
days back when we
were all together,
but secret tears and
loving thoughts will
be with us forever.
Love and miss you
always Mum

Gary, Angela, Abbie
and Chloe
XXXX

Johnson Patricia

27th February 2005

Nan we miss you more
than words can say,
In our hearts you
will always stay,
Loved and
remembered every day.

Grandson Phil, Kelly
and Great Grandson
Daniel
XXX

Johnson Patricia

27th February 2005

No words or verse
could ever say,
the loss we've felt
since you went away.

Think about you
every day Mam,
love and miss you

Son Alan & Carol
XXXX

Johnson Patricia

27th February 2005

I wish that I could
see you Mum
for just a little while,
I wish that I could
hug you and see
your lovely smile,
I miss you most
when I need a friend,
On you I always
could depend,
Kind and thoughtful
a Mum so true,
My dearest possession
is the memory of you.
Loving daughter San
and Alec
XXXX

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

POULTER ALICE

Alice's family would like to express their sincere thanks to all relatives, friends and neighbours for their support during this sad time, thank you also to those who kindly donated to Queenscourt Hopsice in lieu of flowers. Our heart felt thanks for the excellent care Alice received at home from the Care Assistants, The District Nurses, Queenscourt at Home and Marshside Road Surgery. A special thank you to Fred Louttit for his kind words of comfort and funeral service, also finally a grateful thank you to Derek Crawford and team at Howard's Funeral Directors for their kind and professional funeral arrangements.

ISHERWOOD VIVIENNE

Vickie and Dennis would like to express their sincere thanks to the many friends (near and far) for their support during this very sad time.
Thank you also for the staff of wards 11b and 15a of Southport Hospital and the Lyndale Nursing Home for their excellent care of Vivienne. A special thank you for Father Paul Hutchins for the truly wonderful service and his kind words of comfort, finally a grateful thank you to Howard's Funeral Directors for their compassionate and professional funeral arrangements.

CULSHAW JUDY

Tim, Deb and Adrian would like to express their sincere thanks to all those who joined them at the funeral of their Mum, Judy Culshaw and for all the sympathy cards and kind messages of condolences received. Sincere thanks too for all the generous donations to Alzheimers Research. Special thanks to the nurses and carers and to Sally Hunter and her team at MLS Funeral Directors for their care, compassion and professionalism.

BIRTHDAYS

HARRY

DUNN

27th February

Look who's 2!!

Happy Birthday Harry

from Nan and Grandad

Paul & Diane

X X X X

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DEATHS

SEIGLOW DAVID GEORGE

17th February 2018

Peacefully Aged 70 years

Beloved Husband of Susan, devoted Dad of Yvonne and Alan, caring Brother of Linda and all his cherished family.
A much loved figure in the community of Waterloo.
(Our love for one another is unbreakable our memories are timeless)
Funeral service at St Luke Church Crosby on Thursday March 1st at 10.30am.
No flowers by request donation to S.M.I.L.E and LNWR George V Steam Locomotive Trust Appreciated c/o H Leslie Humphreys 69 Liverpool Road, Crosby L23 5SE.
Tel: 0151 924 4805

To place a family announcement please call 01704 392392

DEATHS

BANKS JEAN

20th February 2018

Peacefully in hospital aged 83 years of Scarisbrick

The dearly loved Sister of Norma and Beryl and dear Sister in law of Henry.
Funeral service and interment at St Mark's Church, Scarisbrick on Wednesday 7th March 2018 at 10:30am. Family flowers only please, doantions if desired for Diabetes UK.
All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Ormskirk, Skelmersdale & Scarisbrick.
Tel: 01695 581769/720012

TURNER PETER

Passed away peacefully on 18th February 2018

aged 72 years

of Ormskirk

Dearly loved Husband of Gillian, much Loved Dad of Katie and the late Nick, Loved and missed by all his family and friends.
Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium on Tuesday 27th February 2018 at 3.15 pm.
Family flowers only by request, but donations if so desired for North West Air Ambulance.
Donations and further enquiries please to Lisa Hunter MLS Independent Funeral Directors,
20 Moss Delph Lane
Aughton
Tel. 01695 424888.

DEATHS

TURNER BRIAN ASHCROFT O.B.E.

Peacefully at Southport General on

18th February 2018.

Aged 87 years.

Much loved and devoted husband to Veronica. Dear Dad to John and Beth also her partner Stephen. Cherished Gramps to Trefor and Eleanor, brother to Richard and Peggy. Brian will be greatly missed by all his loving family many friends and neighbours. Funeral Service will be held at West Lancashire Crematorium on Friday 2nd March 2018 at 2.30 pm. Family flowers only please, donations in lieu of flowers will be given in memory of Brian to Diabetes UK. All enquiries to R. Banks & Son (Funerals) Ltd.,
Stretton House,
23 Hall Green,
Up Holland,
Wigan, WN8 0PB.
Tel. (01695) 622099.

CHEETHAM ROBERT MICHAEL (Bob)

On 22nd February 2018

Peacefully in a

Nursing Home

Aged 84 years

R.I.P

Beloved Husband of Barbara, loving Dad of Paul, Michelle and the late Julie, dear Father In Law of Wendy and Chris and a wonderful Grandad and Great Grandad. 'Bob will be sadly missed by all his family and friends'.
Funeral service will take place at St. John The Evangelist RC Church, Chapel lane, Burscough, on Friday 9th March at 10:30am, followed by the Committal at West Lancashire Crematorium. Family flowers only by request donations if so desired for Dementia UK or British Heart Foundation.
Donations and further enquiries please to
M. Rushton Funeral Directors,
100 Marshside Road, Southport,
PR9 9TG, Tel: 01704 214118

Family Announcement? **01704 392392**

DEATHS

PILLING MARIAN

22nd February 2018

Peacefully in hospital aged 83 years

of Skelmersdale

The dearly loved Wife of the late Bill, loving Mum of Carol, dear Mother in law of Chris, devoted Nan of Barry & Kate, John & Natalie and Stephanie & Leanne, Great Nan of Brody, Ella, William and Amelia and much loved Sister of Jean.
Funeral service at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough on Monday 5th March 2018 at 10:45am.
Family flowers only please, donations if desired for Queenscourt Hospice.
All enquiries to Melanie Hardman at H Hardman & Co., Independent Family Funeral Directors of Skelmersdale Ormskirk &
Tel: 01695
722122/720012

WRIGHT MARGARET

Passed Away
21st February 2018

Wife to Arthur, Mum to Sheila, Brian, Andrew and Janette. Mother in law to Roy, Deborah and Mark. Grandma to Annie, Millie, Edward, James, Nya, Cori and Ethan. Funeral service to take place at St Marks Church, Scarisbrick on Tuesday 6th March 2018 at 1pm.

Family flowers only please, however donations are gratefully being received for The North West Air Ambulance & Macmillan Cancer Support.

Further enquiries to Newland and Wilkinson Independent Funeral Directors,
311 Hesketh Lane,
Tarleton, PR4 6RJ.
Telephone
01772 811165.

DEATHS

DAVIES OLGA MARY

February 22nd 2018

Peacefully in Hospital Aged 95 Years.

Loving Wife of Charles (deceased), Dearly loved Mum of Jeff and Mother In-law to Lorraine. A very special Grandma to Chris, Louisa and Lynne. G G to Patrick, Max and Matilda. Olga will be sadly missed by all her family and many Friends.
"God saw you getting weary, he did what he thought best, he put his arms around you and took you home to rest".
Olga's funeral service is at St Leonards Church Bootle On Wednesday 7th March at 11.30 am.
Followed by Cremation at Thornton Crematorium.
Family flowers only please, donations in lieu of flowers may be sent for St Leonards Church.
c/o Barrington's Funeral Services,
28 Crosby Road North,
Waterloo, L22 4QF
Tel: 0151 928 1625.

MURPHY FRANK

16th February 2018

in Hospital Aged 86 years.

Dear Brother of Jack Brother-in-law of Ellen and Uncle of Susan.
Frank will be sadly missed by all his family and friends Requiem Mass at St Edmunds Church Waterloo on Wednesday 7th March 2018 at 12.30pm followed by Cremation at Thornton Crematorium.
Family flowers only please if desired donations to
St Edmund Church
c/o H Leslie Humphreys,
69 Liverpool Road,
Crosby L23 5SE.
Tel: 0151 924 4805

CURRAN MARIA

21st February 2018

Passed away suddenly but peacefully at home

aged 68 years

of Skelmersdale

Dearly loved Mum of Richard and Martin, and a dearly loved Sister of Joseph, Bernadette, Elizabeth and Laurence.
Will be sadly missed by all the family.
For Funeral arrangements & further enquiries please contact
Sally Hunter
MLS Independent Funeral Directors,
22a Liverpool Road
North, Burscough,
L40 5TP.
Tel: 01704 891555

Announcements

DEATHS

EDEN MARY BRIDGET (MOLLY)

On 14th February 2018
Peacefully in Hospital
aged 86 years

Loving Wife of the late Tommy, devoted Mum of Tony, Bobby, Chris and Martine, cherished Grandma of Callum, Ryan, Hannah and Max. Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Requiem Mass will be held at Our Ladys Church Parbold on Monday 5th March at 12:15pm followed by Committal at West Lancashire Crematorium. Family flowers only please by request donations if desired for Our Ladys Church. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funeral Service 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel: 01695 559868

RAWLINSON STANLEY (STAN)

16th February 2018
Aged 93 years

Devoted Husband of the late Phyllis. Loving Father of the late David and Father-in-law of Heather. Greatly missed by his family and friends. Service at Southport Crematorium on Friday 2nd March at 11:20am. Donations are being gratefully received in lieu of flowers for Dogs Trust. Donations and enquiries to Howard's Funeral Directors, 1-5 Roe Lane, Southport, PR9 9DR. Telephone: 01704 500086.

ADAMS PETER

21st February 2018

Peacefully in hospital, aged 85 years

Loving Husband of the late Maureen, devoted Dad of Maria (Dec'd), Collette, Michael, Christopher and Tony, cherished Grandad and Great Grandad of all his Grandchildren. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Requiem Mass will be held at St. Mary Queen of Apostles on Thursday 1st March at 9.15am followed by committal at West Lancashire Crematorium. Family flowers only please by request, donations if desired for Cancer Research UK. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane. Tel 01695 559868.

DEATHS

FRANCIS WILLIAM ALEXANDER

December 10th 2017

Aged 19 Years

Precious, Funny,
Caring Grandson

Missed Beyond
Words

Keep on singing
with the Angels
William

Nan & Grandad

XX

HEYES ANTHONY (Tony)

On 17th February 2018
Peacefully in Hospital
Aged 53 years

Loving Husband of Alma, devoted Dad or Sophie, Rebecca, Lyndsey and Lee, cherished Grandad of Leon, Grayson, Lydia and Betsy, much loved Brother of Jo, Angie and Carrie, will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service will take place today Wednesday 28th February at West Lancashire Crematorium at 10:45am, it will be family flowers only please by request, donations if desired for Southport Hospital, all enquiries Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel: 01695 559868

WALTON KENNETH (KEN)

20th February 2018

Peacefully in hospital after a long illness, aged 77 years

Beloved Husband of Valerie, much loved Dad, Grandad, Great Grandad, Brother, Uncle and dear friend to many. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium on Tuesday 6th March at 1.45pm. Family flowers only please by request, donations if desired for N.W. Air Ambulance. All enquiries to Margaret Whitelam, Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane. Tel 01695 559868.

DEATHS

TIERNEY HARRY

19th February 2018
suddenly Aged 77 years

Dearly loved Husband of Maureen. Devoted Dad of Jackie,Keith,Kevin and David.In Laws Jane,Yvonne,Kerry. Cherished Grandad to all his Grandchildren and Great Grandchildren. We will all miss you so much,you will always be in our thoughts. Funeral service at West Lancs Crematorium Friday 2nd March at 4.00pm.

DEATHS

ROSENGROVE MARION

Passed away peacefully at home
16th February 2018

I sat by your bedside,
holding your hand,
I knew we had to part,
but when I saw that
you had gone,
it really broke my heart.
You can't come back,
I know that's true, but
one day Mum,
I'll come to you.
We will always love
you Mum,
Your loving Daughter
Karen, Son-in-law
John, Granddaughter
Emma, Great
Grandchildren Lewis,
Kian, Oliver, Christopher
and little Elsie-May
Night night God bless
xx

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22a, Liverpool Road North, Burscough, L40 5TP

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PUBLIC NOTICES

West Lancashire Borough Council

Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA / LISTED BUILDING

Application No: 2018/0092/FUL First floor rear extension, orangery to rear and extend garage at rear at 78 New Street, Halsall.

Application No: 2018/0140/LBC Listed Building Consent - Internal alterations to create more usable space including removal of some internal walls, the addition of new stud work partitions and relocation of existing kitchen space at Tyrers Barn, Wood Lane, Lathom.

Application No: 2018/0150/FUL Replacement of windows and front door to UPVC at 26A Church Street, Up Holland.

Application No: 2018/0154/FUL Variation of Condition No. 2 imposed on planning permission 2016/1309/FUL to vary the approved plans at 18 Granville Park, Aughton.

Application No: 2018/0161/FUL Replacement conservatory and garage. French doors to original rear chimney bay. Reduction of ground levels and formation of stone paving to rear at 98 Chapel Street, Ormskirk.

Application No: 2018/0166/FUL Demolition of dwelling and building of replacement dwelling due to structural and hydrology damage. at Charlton, Quarry Drive, Aughton.

Application No: 2018/0169/LBC Listed Building Consent - Replacement conservatory and garage. French doors to original rear chimney bay. Reduction of ground levels and formation of stone paving to rear at 98 Chapel Street, Ormskirk.

Application No: 2018/0173/COU Change of use - existing offices (first floor/second floor) into student accommodation at Church House, Park Road, Ormskirk.

Application No: 2018/0181/FUL Replacement of existing white painted wooden fascia boards with white UPVC boards at Church Hall, Church Lane, Aughton.

Application No: 2018/0182/FUL Two storey rear and side extensions, with first floor roof terrace/balcony. New front and rear porches. Replacement/new facing materials and roof coverings at 1 Higher Lane, Up Holland.

Application No: 2018/0185/FUL Variation of Condition No. 2 of planning permission 2017/0768/FUL to vary the approved plans at Site Of Former South Springs, St Michael Road, Aughton,

The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development

In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI — Dated: 28th February 2018
Director of Development and Regeneration — PDNOT987

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LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 – Section 123 (2(A)

Notice of Intention to Dispose of Open Space Land

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that West Lancashire Borough Council as owner of the land described in the Schedule below and further to the planning permission granted on 23rd June 2017 intends to dispose of the land in order to facilitate development of the land.

A plan showing the land in question can be inspected on weekdays during normal office hours at the address below. Any objections to the proposed disposal should be made to me in writing at the address below no later than 4pm on 16th March 2018.

SCHEDULE

Land on the north west side of Digmoor Road, Skelmersdale

Dated 28th February 2018

Terry Broderick
Borough Solicitor
West Lancashire Borough Council
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Ormskirk L39 2DF
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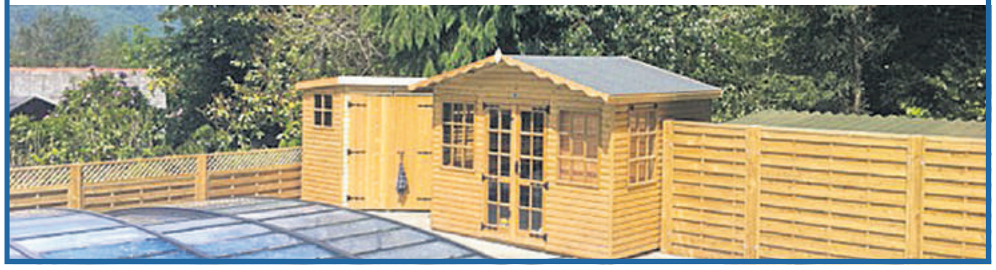

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DAVID SIMISTER
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Please don't tell me what Chris Harris has been powersliding lately. Or what car that bloke from *Friends* has been bigging up. The world's biggest car show is back on our screens – but I haven't had a chance to watch it yet.

When *Top Gear* returned to the nation's living rooms last Sunday night I'd only just settled into mine after moving house, which means that as I write any means of watching it was still sealed neatly away in cardboard boxes. It's funny how relocating forces you to live on the bare basics. No seeing The Stig drifting BMW M3s for me, then.

But what I did get to do was add another motoring superlative to my repertoire during the house move, because the massively extended Vauxhall Movano I used for the job is easily the biggest vehicle I've ever been given the keys to.

There doesn't seem to be an official term for it but the rental firm that entrusted it to me refers to it as a Maxi load, although it's about as far from the old British Leyland hatchback as Donald Trump is from a sensibly written tweet. It's a bit bigger, and considerably longer, than a normal Luton van, which means that once you get behind the three seats you have a load area that's bigger than a typical student flat. As a result its road presence is vast. Yet it's all uncannily normal to drive.

Once you get used to what feels like a precariously high driving position – from the helm of a Maxi load you're looking *down* on Range Rovers and workmen in Ford Transits – it feels like you could be driving the latest Astra. The steering's a little vague but it's light and does everything you ask of it, the six-speed manual does a fine job of keeping the 2.3-litre turbodiesel in check and it'll tootle along at 60mph while barely breaking into a 2000rpm sweat.

The fact it can do all this while conveying an entire three-bedroom house's contents and not creak at the seams, I reckon, is truly remarkable.

The only thing you've got to watch out for is just how generous its proportions are; I thought it'd be the width that'd catch me out but in fact it's the lengthy stroll between the front and rear axles that kept me on my toes throughout my weekend with it.

But once you get used to the thing it's surprising how something so enormous can feel so reassuringly normal.

I don't think the Movano Maxi load will ever earn itself a mention on *Top Gear*, but in its own unapologetically useful way it's just as impressive.

David Simister is the editor of Classic Car Weekly

The extended Vauxhall Movano David used dwarfs other vans

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Skem's Mwiya Malumo has a shot saved by Goole keeper Ben Saynor. Pictures by John Driscoll

Skem face relegation scrap after defeat to bottom of table side

Skelmersdale 1
Goole 2

SKELMERSDALE lost against Goole in a crucial match at the bottom of the table, *writes Neil Leatherbarrow.*

It was simply the game that Skelmersdale couldn't afford to lose, as the defeat leaves them under pressure and looking over their shoulders for the remainder of the season.

After three minutes a cross from Goole's Steve Jeff was headed through on goal by Danny South, but clean through Scott Smith managed to miss the target.

Then on six minutes Sam Colbear of Goole slipped and allowed Mwiya Malumo in on goal, but a poor touch allowed goalkeeper Ben Saynor to rescue the visitors.

On eight minutes Scott Bakkor put one wide from 20 yards that he should have done far better with, before on 15 minutes Bakkor beat keeper Saynor to a bouncing ball and headed at goal only to see the ball cleared off the line.

In the 41st minute Goole's Danny South was sent off after an altercation with Hollett, who had been trying to protect the ball while on the ground.

Scott Bakkor on the ball

As the game approached half time, Skem were stunned when Smith won a race to reach the ball with Skem goalkeeper Lee Callum Roberts and headed the ball over into an empty net to give ten man Goole the lead.

In the 63rd minute things got decidedly worse for Skelmersdale.

Smith's shot was blocked and the ball should have been cleared, but it found its way to Chris Walton around the penalty spot, who slammed the ball into the Skelmersdale net to make it 2-0 to Goole.

You could say that Goole's second goal had been against the run of play at the time and that Skelmersdale reacted quickly again.

On 68 minutes a Malumo snapshot brought a brilliant reaction save out Saynor and the ball went for a corner.

The flag kick wasn't cleared properly and dropped to Josh Wardle who from about 15 yards drilled a shot under two defenders and keeper Saynor to put Skem back in with a good shout at only 2-1 down.

However, from that point on the Skelmersdale challenge gradually petered out. Goole were putting in an extremely spirited show and were denying Skelmersdale any real openings to get at their defence.

In the 88th minute the frustration got the better of some of the Skelmersdale players.

Captain Hollett, who had been the target of much of Goole's vitriol, committed a foul on the left-hand side, as the players turned away he was in verbal confrontation with Goole's Declan Howe.

He then felled Howe and was shown the red card by the referee. It was all over for Skem.

'Goole defeat is worst since I've been here'

SKELMERSDALE manager Dave Powell described last Saturday's defeat to Goole as "without doubt the worst performance since I've arrived."

However, the young team will hope to make amends when they hit the road this Saturday with a trip up the M6 to play Kendal Town.

Powell has brought in three new signings at the end of last week. One particular signing Ryan Botell is very interesting, the 20 year old midfielder signed from Aberdeenshire based Highland League club Turriff United and made his debut at left-back against Goole on Saturday.

Another making his debut was forward Tunde Owolabi a player who scored against Skelmersdale in the derby game with Prescot Cables on August Bank Holiday Monday.

The third player has appeared in the National League for Southport. Billy Whittle was released by the Sandgrounders recently, he didn't appear on Saturday.

Burscough are without a game at all until Saturday, March 10 when they entertain highly rated Runcorn Town for the first ever time.

Manager Dave Sutton has been busy this week though, signing midfielder Gary Grier signed from Atherton

Burscough take huge step towards survival

Maine Road 2
Burscough 3

BURSCOUGH took a huge step towards safety after winning a five goal thriller, *writes Neil Leatherbarrow.*

The hard fought win in Manchester, which saw all five goals scored in the first half, moved them up to 16th position in the table and significantly four points out of the relegation zone.

Burscough struck early. In the 5th minute a Maine Road attack broke down and Burscough counterattacked quickly, Terry Cummings tapping the ball home as the home defence were caught out.

It only took the hosts six minutes to equalise, Jamie Ormrod scoring.

It was an open first-half, as both teams needed to win it made the play intense.

In the 17th minute Burscough's top scorer Chad Whyte restored their lead. The Linnets number nine creating an angle before firing home his 11th league goal in a Burscough shirt.

Soon it was 3-1 to Burscough with a 25th minute goal, this time Cummings was the creator, his cross setting up Peter Henerty who finished tidily.

Maine Road had to push forward and they finished an exciting first-half with goal from Sean Cookson.

The second-half saw Burscough forced to defend and they did it well, allowing Maine Road very little at all in the way of chances. Burscough had chances but didn't convert them, keeping the drama going until the final whistle.

The win puts Burscough on 32 points from 31 games.

On form they are on course to achieve safety, but they cannot rest easily yet.

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